**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**August 22, 2016**

* **Welcome back to the academic year**. We believe that the senate has over the last several years worked diligently to participate in shared responsibilities for leadership in the institution—with leadership in academic areas where faculty responsibility is most central, as well as in wise and thoughtful questions about areas such as budget and planning to lead us to shared institutional progress.
* **Strategic Planning** Nearly 100 faculty and staff have participated in bringing this planning cycle to a final document. The recent work has focused on developing far more specific outcomes for the effort to be accomplished over the next 5 years. Strategic planning focuses an institution’s attention on those areas where choices can differentiate our institution from others for current and future students, current and future financial supporters and other audiences. Policies such as personnel policies and budgetary choices are driven by such plans. We will be hosting at least one more open meeting for campus prior to a roll-out near October 1. Once again, many thanks to all those who have participated in this process.
* **Senate Priorities** The retreat summary provides some excellent areas for consideration for future senate efforts. As a forum for faculty considerations, I do hope the senate will continue to serve as a focal point for communicating university and especially university system information to colleagues across the campus. In addition, as we periodically work to engage the campus in broader issues associated with Higher Education across the US—affordability, connection of student learning in our programs to future student success (many such issues imbedded in strategic planning priorities)—we hope the senate will assist us in timely and thoughtful responses to this changing environment.
* **Thanks** Your willingness to serve our campus is very much appreciated.
* **Questions**