**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**February 22, 2016**

**Legislative Activity** The house version of the FY 2017 budget did not include funds for the construction of the academic core infrastructure. We will be working this week with members of the state senate in an effort to include at least partial support for the project. Competition for bond dollars from increases in transportation activities has made funding challenging. The Bill did include a 3% average salary increase for state employees, including USG faculty and staff. Campus carry legislation is likely to pass the Georgia House this week. It remains uncertain what success advocates will have in the senate. Religious freedom legislation has passed the senate in a form different from that already passed in the House (House version, pastor protection, was limited to protections against compelled ceremonies in churches against the religious beliefs of the church—a settled part of law with long time acceptance of Catholic refusal to perform marriages for legally divorced citizens. Relevant to USG, insofar as there is reason to believe that passage of the Senate version would have economic consequences for the Metro area and thus the state. The House has also filed a constitutional amendment limiting tuition increases at USG institutions to the level of prior year inflation. It will take a state referendum to be enacted even if it passes the House and the Senate.

**Strategic Planning** The planning committee met Friday, to receive a report of Strength, weaknesses, threats and opportunities as perceived by a cross section of campus. I will be reporting these perceptions to campus later this week, asking for comments. I do hope that senators will encourage participation in the process.

**Planning and Budget Advisory Committee** This group also met Friday, reviewing current budget positions, and plans for both general fund and future capital proposals. One modification on the four year capital plan discussed with the replacement of a general class room facility with a proposal for a nursing facility. Recommendations were made for the distribution of one time dollars (largely lapsed salary and benefit dollars)—replacement of dental x-ray equipment and university electrical generator equipment received consensus support from the advisory group. Materials will be posted on the president’s and the VP business and operations web site. Chairman Gooden attended the session.

**Fair Labor Standards Act**  While the Federal mandates to change regulations in the Fair Labor Standards Act do not apply to faculty, they do have potential implications for more than 100 staff colleagues here (By contrast, estimates at UGA run into the several 1000 staff members). Compliance is required by the Federal government—and are unrelated to state and USG initiated compensation issues). In essence, it increases the salary level to be considered a non-exempt employee—and unless exceeding that level (or serving as an instructor), the regulations require that individuals keep track of hours, and either be given overtime or comp time. HR continues to meet with staff on the implementation by July 1.

**Dr. Downs recognized** The Athletic Hall of Fame recognized Dr. Harry Downs for his initiation of university athletics. Three other former Clayton State athletes were recognized, two teacher/ coaches and an attorney (the latter an international athlete).

**Thanks and Questions**