Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to our students, alumni, staff, deans, faculty, and executive leadership for thoughtful deliberation regarding revisions to the University Senate Bylaws in January. We are hopeful to engage in discussions this spring on issues related to development and alumni relations, research compliance, and human resources. We continue to encourage all members of the Emory community to engage in shared governance through the University Senate, University Faculty Council, University Employee Council, Student Government Associations, or your respective schools, colleges, and units.

From the President’s Desk

Research Administration Services
Kathleen Bienkowski, Associate Vice President of Research Administration Services (RAS), provided an update on the rollout of RAS Centers at Emory. Guided by the Office of Business Practices Improvement (BPI), the project is intended to streamline the administration and processing of research grants. Since the RAS Centers launch in 2013, Emory now has five such Centers that are operational throughout campus, covering about 60 percent of the university’s research volume. Plans call for five more units to be launched in 2015.

Healthy Emory
Michael Staufacker, Director of Health Management for Human Resources Administration, and April Flint, Assistant Athletics Director for recreation and Play Emory, presented an update on Healthy Emory, an initiative to engage Emory’s workforce in the pursuit of and participation in healthy lifestyles. The Healthy Emory Steering Committee has completed a comprehensive strategic plan establishing four key areas of influence: environment, culture, community, and resources. A new Healthy Emory Coordinating Committee has been charged with implementing that plan.

Special Session on Bylaw Revisions
At the end of the meeting, the Senate had a special closed session to consider proposed revisions to Senate bylaws pertaining to the voting privileges of its members, the functions of the Senate, and processes for holding limited sessions. The proposed revisions were recommended by a review group approved by the Senate. After open discussion, the Senate voted to recommend all revisions. The proposed changes will be reviewed by the University Board of Trustees for approval and reconciliation with the University Bylaws.