Minutes

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING
Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 1:00 P.M.
Robert Howell Brooks Center for the Performing Arts, Theatre

1. Call to Order: Provost Robert Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Provost Jones welcomed the Faculty.

**Transcript:** Good afternoon! Welcome to Clemson University’s December 2014 Faculty meeting. And a special welcome to those of you watching us via live broadcast from your offices, homes, or one of our many, excellent campuses around the state. It’s a great day to be a tiger! I would like to begin by introducing our stage party: James P. Clements, President, David Blakesley, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, Antonis Katsiyanis, Faculty Senate President, Matt Bundrick, Staff Senate resident, Wil Brasington, Senior Director of Alumni Relations.

2. Approval of Minutes: The first order of business today is to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 19, 2014 Faculty meeting which was held in conjunction with Convocation. These minutes were sent to you in draft form via electronic mail on Wednesday, December 10, 2014. Is there anyone here today who would like to make changes or revisions to the minutes? Hearing no changes or revisions, then I ask for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Do I hear a second? Is there any discussion? All in favor? Any opposed? The minutes stand approved as written.

3. Proposed Constitutional Amendment: The next item of business is an action item that requires the faculty to vote on a proposed Constitutional Amendment. The proposal has been sent electronically to all eligible Clemson faculty, and a hard copy has been hand out to you today. An electronic ballot will be sent shortly; please look for it and vote. Briefly, the Rationale for the amendment is for more effective management and use of the constitution. The current Constitution requires that amendments be made at General Faculty meetings with a quorum of half the faculty. Because we rarely have half of the faculty at these meetings, amending the Constitution using the current working is impractical. The proposed amendments a) restrict the role of the General Faculty meeting to discussion of amendments, and b) allow for more practical electronic balloting over several days. All of the deliberative and procedural rigor already described in the constitution will be retained. Does anyone wish to discuss the proposed amendment at this time? No discussion from faculty was presented.

4. Presentation of the Ralph D. Elliott Endowed Award for Outstanding Service to Off-Campus, Distance and Continuing Education by Provost Jones: It is now my pleasure to recognize some of outstanding achievements of our staff and faculty. I will begin with the Ralph D. Elliott Award for Outstanding Service to Off-Campus, Distance and Continuing Education, which recognizes exemplary contributions to the university’s distance learning and continuing education programs. The award was established in 2006 by family and friends of Dr. Ralph Elliott, Vice Provost for Off-Campus, Distance, and Continuing Education, & Professor of Economics. Ralph Elliott is with us today; Ralph would you please stand and be recognized? Thank you for your outstanding contributions to Clemson! The recipient of this year’s award has served as a mentor to students, faculty, administrators, and those
outside the field of higher education. Since 2003, he has shared his extensive knowledge of eLearning to help us implement best practices, and continuously improve the quality of online learning and continuing education. He is actively involved in national leadership roles and sees his mission to share his love of online education to improve access to learning opportunities for all. His daily tweets have provided visible and influential new avenues for advancing online education, and he has authored and co-authored numerous articles related to distance education and online learning. It is my great pleasure to present the Ralph D. Elliott Award for Outstanding Service to Off-Campus, Distance and Continuing Education to DeWitt Salley, Director of Clemson Online. Congratulations Witt.

5. Presentation of the Rowland P. Alston, Sr. Award for Excellence in Public Relations by Provost Jones:
As I present this next award, the Rowland P. Alston Sr. Award for Excellence in Public Relations, I would like to recognize a special guest who is here with us today, Rowland Alston, Jr (Class of 1970) Rowland please stand to be recognized. Rowland, a retired extension agent and original host of the long running ETV program “Making it Grow” established this award in honor of his father Rowland P. Alston, Sr. (Class of 1942) to recognize outstanding faculty/staff who, through programs and activities in the areas of agriculture and/or natural resources, have provided Clemson University with positive visibility throughout South Carolina, the United States, and the world. Rowland, thank you for your generosity in providing for this recognition. The recipient of this year’s award has a long history of excellence in media production. Serving Clemson University for over 33 years he has showcased agriculture through innovative Clemson Radio Productions, including the very successful Your Day program. Under his leadership gardening call-in shows increased, and new shows that follow the food chain from the farm to the fork were developed. By using Google Voice, Skype, webcasts, and local cable networks, he found innovative ways to cut production costs and expand the reach of Clemson’s messaging. Our honoree is also a true lover and supporter of our natural environment having produced amazingly beautiful videos of bird species from hawks to hummingbirds. His work has been recognized nationally by the Association for Communication Excellence. It is my great pleasure to present the Roland P. Alston, Sr. Award for Public Relations Excellence to Robert “Bob” McAnally, Senior Producer for Clemson Broadcast Services. Congratulations Bob.

6. Presentation of the Thomas Green Clemson Award for Excellence by Provost Jones:
The Thomas Green Clemson Award for Excellence was established in 1999 to recognize Clemson University faculty and staff whose teaching, research or service is exemplary. Honorees receive a plaque and a cash award of $2,500, and their names are recorded on a perpetual plaque housed in the R.M. Cooper Library. The library also receives $2,500 to be used to purchase books related to the recipient’s department. I am delighted to have the opportunity to present this award today to two members of our Clemson Family. Our first recipient has been a Clemson employee for 14 years. A model professional, she has worked diligently in her role to foster collaboration across the campus to better serve our students, faculty, and staff. She fields calls and emails from university staff members on a variety of topics, serves as vice-chair of the President’s Commission on the Status of Black Faculty and Staff, supports all aspects of the Staff Development Program, and provides logistical support and coordination for most of the Staff Senate’s functions. She also enables and supports volunteer groups that provide literacy and computer skills classes for Clemson employees. Her guidance, talent, and efforts are felt by many across the entire spectrum of Clemson University. I believe she is an excellent example of what it means to be a Thomas Green Clemson Awardee. It is my great pleasure to present this high honor to Karon Donald. Congratulations Karon.
Our second Thomas Green Clemson Award for Excellence recipient has been a member of the Clemson Family for 18 years. Serving as a Senior Lecturer in the department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management, he has been devoted to, and effective in, improving the academic lives of Clemson University students. Prior to joining the department, he worked in Campus Recreation where he created the Clemson Outdoor Recreation and Education Program designed to allow students the opportunity to participate in, as well as serve as leaders for, outdoor recreational experiences. He was also instrumental in the renovation and expansion of the Fike Recreation/Swann Fitness and Wellness Center. His leadership role in the Leisure Skills Program expanded the number of sections delivered per year from 28 to 350, and these courses now serve over 7,000 students per year. He was also one of the initiators of the Engaging in Diverse Guided Experiences (EDGE) program. It is my great pleasure to present the Thomas Green Clemson Faculty Award of Excellence to a most worthy recipient, Dr. Robert “Bob” Brookover. Congratulations Bob.

Provost Jones introduced Wil Brasington to present the Alumni Award.

Provost Jones: At this time I would like to introduce you to the Senior Director of Alumni Relations, Wil Brasington, who will present the Alumni Award for Cooperative Extension Distinguished Public Service.

7. Presentation of the Alumni Award for Cooperative Extension Distinguished Public Service – Senior Director of Alumni Relations by Mr. Wil Brasington:

I am pleased today to present, on behalf of the Clemson Alumni Association, the 2014 Distinguished Cooperative Extension Public Service Award, which is one of three awards presented annually by the Alumni Association to recognize outstanding contributions within the three mission areas of our University. The Distinguished Cooperative Extension Public Service Award is bestowed at this gathering each year to an extension service professional that – through their efforts – has significantly enhanced the well-being of the citizens of South Carolina and beyond, and has provided exemplary service to their field on behalf of Clemson University. It carries with it a generous stipend and this beautiful piece of hardware! Our 2014 recipient truly epitomizes what this award exists to pay special tribute to. Andy Rollins is an Upstate Fruit and Vegetable Agent for Clemson’s Extension Service, based out of Spartanburg. In this role, he provides support and technical assistance to Upstate commercial growers and prior to his current assignment, he served for eight years as a county agent covering Kershaw, Sumter, Fairfield and Lee Counties. During this time in his career, his focus was master gardening and forestry programs and assisting home horticulture. He is a two-time Clemson graduate, holding a BS in Biological Sciences and a Masters of Science in Plant Pathology. His peers and colleagues are quick to offer their praise appreciation of Andy and his various attributes and contributions, and did so through the nominations process. They reference his professionalism, and note that his knowledge in his chosen field is “beyond measure”. They state that he “exemplifies the true meaning of extension” by delivering unbiased production research to small fruit producers. They attest that he is well-respected among his peer group and among SC growers, and that he strives daily to increase knowledge transfer and to help others with their business operations. Finally, they recognize that he goes above and beyond to ensure that Extension is successful in disseminating material to the public of South Carolina. Rollins has been very involved over the years in the professional associations, organizations, and various workshops tied to his field.
These include participation in:

- The Southeast Vegetable Extension Workshop
- The Southeast Region Small Fruit Consortium
- And the South Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents, of which he served as president and received the organization’s achievement awards

Speaking of achievement awards, we’re very pleased to add to his collection today! Andy is with us today, and is joined by his wife Charity. Would each of you join me in a round of applause for our 2014 Distinguished Cooperative Extension Public Service award recipient, Andy Rollins.

Provost Jones: Please join me, once more, in saying thank you to all of today’s award winners for their dedicated service and contributions to Clemson University.

8. Remarks: Provost Jones introduced the first speaker Dr. David Blakesley, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Transcript of Dr. David Blakesley: Where did \textit{that} semester go? I say this at the end of every semester. This year marks my thirtieth year in the college classroom as a teacher, so I’ve said it at least sixty times now. (And we thought he looked so young!) One of my goals as Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees is to convey to the Trustees that the job of a faculty member is much more complex and complicated than many realize. Of course, we take great pride in our teaching, which is a hallmark for Clemson. As pressures mount to trim budgets, keep tuition costs low, and remain one of the most efficiently run public colleges in the land, we must not only remember but also ensure that everyone knows that the foundation of great teaching is research and the knowledge it produces, the intellectual and symbolic capital without which good teaching is impossible. Great teachers must be prepared, experienced, and well educated. Every teacher I know is highly motivated, at the very least by the Aristotelian ideal that learning is naturally pleasurable. And who are our teachers? They are tenured and tenure-track faculty, of course, but a large percentage are lecturers and graduate assistants, many of whom are on the front lines teaching our newest students. We owe it to all of these teachers to support them well, give them opportunities for and encourage their professional development, show all of them the respect they have earned, and reward them when they do well. We need to ensure that this foundation of great teaching and learning is on solid ground, so we also need to appreciate that great universities, like many of those ahead of us in national rankings, support great teaching and learning beyond the classroom, through research, collaboration, and innovation. The research and creative work that we do gives us credibility and authority—in the classroom and beyond. It gives Clemson the intellectual capital without which there can be little to say. It’s all connected. That’s why in my meetings with Trustees this past year, colleagues and I have continued to advocate for reinvesting in graduate education and research. Trustees Wilkerson and Dukes had an engaged and productive dinner meeting with Clemson’s named professors and endowed chairs last February. We shared ideas and strategies for developing our strengths with greater attention to ways we can build our capacity and reputation for producing outstanding and innovative research. Trustees have reiterated that the BOT understands that graduate education and research is THE essential future path for Clemson. We have discussed since then reinvesting in noncompetitive internal collaborative research grants. We are developing proposals for research consortiums with Clemson at the center and another for an Institute for Advanced Study, perhaps one focused on digital technologies and electracy to leverage new
partnerships with Adobe, the University of Southern California, the University of Florida, and the University of Wisconsin. We can do more.

Last year at this meeting, I mentioned that I was mired in the college application process with twins, who decided in the end to attend the “other” USC (my alma mater is the real one, but I can’t tell them that anymore). They tell me that it has been easier than high school so far, and I tell them that this means they need to stop learning just for the grade and start learning to change the world. That raises the bar for them. Let’s raise our bar as well. And with that, may you all have a safe and happy holiday, and call this semester a wrap!

Provost Jones introduced the next speaker, Faculty Senate President, Dr. Antonis Katsiyannis

Transcript of Dr. Antonis Katsiyannis: First, congratulations to our award winners-your accomplishments and commitment to Clemson is an inspiration to all of us. Second, under the leadership of President Clements and Provost Jones, we have moved expeditiously to fill the many vacant or interim positions in administration…we have also embarked in a strategic planning that will define Clemson in the decades to come…I urge each of you to be active in this process. After all, it is when we all come together when the greatest good is accomplished. Third, the Clemson family can, must and will do better to foster an environment of diversity, acceptance, respect, and openness. Let’s join our President and realize this urgent goal! Fourth, it is a great joy to see the many construction cranes across campus helping update our facilities both academic and support facilities. Clemson University, with its rising national prominence in attracting and retaining the best of faculty and students, must have the academic infrastructure to allow both faculty and students to excel. Finally, many thanks to the members of the faculty senate for their hard work and accomplishments this semester, for example bringing the faculty manual to the 21 century, undergraduate assessment, research incentives, and the athletic student fee. Thanks to Cathy, Monica, and Connie for keeping the fort (and me) running. Also, my deep appreciation to President Clements and Provost Jones for their visionary leadership and their commitment to faculty involvement. Happy Holidays to all.

Provost Jones introduced the next speaker, Mr. Matt Bundrick, President of the Staff Senate.

Transcript of Mr. Matt Bundrick:

I want to start out by saying how happy I am for you, Karon, on receiving the Thomas Green Clemson Award this year. You’re so selfless, so humble and you’ve done many great things for Clemson and your community. The Staff Senate is proud and fortunate to have you as part of our team. When I took office this past April, I promised the senators that I would work relentlessly, tirelessly, to serve the Senate, the Staff and the University to the fullest extent that my supervisors and my wife would allow. Well, two-thirds of the way in and we’re starting to feel the full effects of this promise. Some days are harder than others, my nights and weekends are non-existent; however, It has given me the opportunity to broaden my perspective, to meet new people, to be a positive influence on Clemson’s future and has allowed me to become a more engaged member of the Clemson Family. Speaking of being engaged with Clemson…Something Trustee Smythe McKissick told the Foundation Board several months ago when he learned he’d be receiving the Clemson Medallion….and you really have to know how humble Smythe is to get the full effect. He said, “Clemson has given me so much. It’s a debt that I may never
be able to repay.” Such a profound statement from someone who has devoted a huge portion of his life to serving Clemson. He later told me, “The most important thing you can do is to stay involved.” Well, I would pass along that advice and encourage each of you: students, faculty, staff and alumni to actively seek opportunities to get involved with the University. Only then can you feel the true essence that is Clemson. From time to time, people ask me questions like “What’s President Clements like?” “What about Provost Jones? What are your thoughts? This prompted me to think maybe I should share with you some of the “behind the scenes” Jim and Bob. I hope they don’t mind. The day President Clements was announced as our 15th president, he made a point to meet with Angela and me before heading back to West Virginia. He wanted to learn about who we were as people and learn about the staff, our challenges and what we’re most proud of. At the end, he laid out 3 expectations for us:

   Number 1. He gave us his number, and said “stay in touch”. He wanted to make sure there were no barriers and no surprises.

   Number 2 and 3. He was strict about these: Be honest and Always, always do the right thing.
If we were to do those 3 things, we would get along just fine. I think his values speak volumes for the kind of man and leader that Jim is….it also doesn’t hurt that they align with Clemson’s core values of Respect, Honesty and Integrity.

   Fast forward a few months, Jim called a meeting when I took office and the first thing he said to me was “Matt listen, we’re a team. What can I do to help the staff and to help you get the most out of your time in office?” It was about us, not him. The remaining hour was all mine, and again we ran over schedule. I think I can speak for Antonis, Ryan and Maddy here from previous conversations, but we’ve found President Clements to be nothing short of genuine, inclusive and exceeding in our expectations of his role. Now, Provost Jones, you’ve been here all of what, 3 months? Boy it’s been a busy 3 months hasn’t it….Like Jim, Dr. Jones has been very eager to listen and learn about, not only the challenges we face, but the successes we’re having as we all strive to keep improving this University. He not only listens, but quickly processes and acts on solutions.

To give you an example, after the town hall meeting last month I walked with Provost Jones back to Sikes and explained several issues we are facing with silo-ed communications and the need to be more inclusive in decision and policymaking. 15 minutes later we reunited for a council meeting with academic leaders. During the meeting he walked over to me and said that he had given some thought about what we had discussed. He wanted to know if I would like to speak to the council regarding our conversation even though I wasn’t on the agenda. He had not only listened, but immediately took advantage of the first opportunity to begin remediation. Honestly, I wasn’t quite prepared for this, but seized the opportunity. He also listened to our request to improve and increase support for nursing mothers and has charged a committee of University leaders and mothers to implement a Lactation Network and support program. Next year, Clemson will become a Mother Friendly employer as defined by the South Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition thanks to the support of President Clements and Provost Jones and the work of this committee. I wish you all had the same opportunities to see just how much our administration cares about us as people, the quality of our product and the integrity of our brand and reputation. You’ve heard President Clements say this before, but we have great people here, very smart and dedicated people. We also have many volunteers and partners that invest time and money in Clemson because they believe in what we’re doing and where we’re headed. We’re most likely going to be faced with a lot of changes over the next few years. As we go through the 2020Forward process updating the 2020 Road Map, I want you to know that Jim and Bob firmly believe this is not “their Clemson, their legacy” but OUR Clemson, OUR legacy and collectively, through our input and leadership, we will all be responsible for the future of this University. Recognizing that this is a journey and there may be some struggles with change along the way, I ask that you all focus on the vision…trust in your new leaders…believe in the value of your input and
respect the time it takes to implement and execute the plan. As Vice President of Advancement Neill Cameron would advocate, “Be a part of the solution.” In closing, as we enter the holiday season, I ask two things of you: First ask that you all identify something at the University that you’re passionate about, thankful for or just believe the people behind it are doing great things. Maybe it’s the botanical gardens, the emerging scholars program, the brooks center, CULIFE or Staff Senate Scholarship… Second, I would ask that you consider a New Year’s resolution to enroll in payroll deduction of at least $1 a paycheck to support these efforts. This is a small, but huge way that YOU can make a difference in Clemson’s success.

Provost Jones introduced the next speaker, Clemson President, James P. Clements

Transcription of James P. Clements:

Good afternoon! First – let me say -- Congratulations to today’s award winners! You make us all proud -- to be -- at Clemson. Let me also thank David Blakes-lee – An-ton-is Kati-yannis – and -- Matt Bundrick for their service. Their advice -- and -- counsel to me -- and – to the Board of Trustees has been invaluable – during this year of transition. It is hard for me to believe that it has been a year since I joined the Clemson Family! And - it has been a whirl-wind to say the least! • It has been wonderful to meet so many great people – to travel all over the state – and – to hear how much people admire -- and -- respect -- Clemson University.  

1. We enjoyed many significant achievements in 2014 – including the fact that we reached our goal of being one of the nation’s Top 20 public universities. We also set new records in fund-raising – enrolled another academically strong freshman class – and -- welcomed hundreds of new faculty and staff members -- to the Clemson Family. As we look forward to the holiday season – and -- the start of a new year – we can take pride -- and -- satisfaction knowing that Clemson -- continues to achieve great things. • Just a few weeks ago – Provost Jones and I -- held a town meeting to officially kick off the process of re-assessing – and updating -- our strategic plan. We don’t need to cover that ground again here today – but -- please know that work is under way – and – it is moving fast.

2. The committee structure -- and -- membership -- was announced Monday in Inside Clemson – along with a link to a dedicated website so that you can keep track of the progress. You can also provide your input thru this website. And, please do. However -- even as that work takes place – we continue to make progress -- by implementing -- the existing plan. Right now – undergraduate applications are running about 10 percent ahead of the same time last year – which – by the way -- was a record year! And -- I’m pleased to announce that – this week -- The Will to Lead capital campaign passed the $850 million mark – on the way – toward -- our goal of $1 billion. That is a significant milestone – but it’s not about the number – it’s about scholarships, faculty and staff support – facilities -- and -- programs -- that will make a difference for our students – and -- our state.

3. I am very thankful to all -- who have contributed to this effort! We also have more than 1 million square feet of construction and renovation projects under way. These projects include the Watt Innovation Center – the expansion of Freeman Hall -- Core Campus – and -- Douthit Hills -- with more to come. Replacing and updating – our outdated facilities and infrastructure -- is good news for our students – faculty -- and staff – even if it comes -- with temporary inconveniences. At the same time -- it has been a difficult semester in many respects. We have lost 5 students -- all of whom were bright -- and -- smart young people -- with -- enormous potential. I ask that you continue to keep the families of those young people in your thoughts and prayers.
4. We also received a number of reports of inappropriate and deeply disturbing behaviors -- that led to a mor-a-tor-ium on social activities -- and -- internal investigations -- into a number of fraternity organizations. And -- in recent weeks – we have seen events and issues -- ranging from an inappropriate themed party – to hurtful social media posts – that have caused division -- and -- made some of our students feel unwelcome. Clearly – change is needed – and -- I want to express my appreciation to the many students, faculty, staff and alumni who have come forward to ask – how can they help. I have asked our Chief Diversity Officer Leon Wiles – and – our Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Almeda Jacks – to lead an effort to enhance diversity -- and -- foster a greater sense of unity among all members of the Clemson Family. Specifically – we are launching the following new initiatives - o A President’s Lecture Series on Leadership in Diversity -- to bring nationally recognized speakers to campus 

5. A monthly Student Luncheon Dialogue that will bring minority -- and -- majority students -- together to enhance communication and understanding, and o A standing Diversity Council -- with a broad-based membership -- of internal and external groups -- to keep issues -- and -- ideas -- at the forefront. We will also review all existing diversity plans -- climate study and task force recommendations -- that have been issued over the past several years -- to see where we have had success -- and -- where we have fallen short of our goals. We know that these actions will not prevent occasional thoughtless or hurtful remarks or acts -- but -- I hope they will demonstrate -- a step -- towards our commitment to the core values that we teach our students – integrity -- honesty -- and respect. We should recognize -- and take pride in -- areas where we are making progress.

6. We have implemented a new need-based grant program targeting low-income students o We have hired Professor Emeritus Curtis White -- who is leading an effort to recruit and retain minority faculty o The Diversity Office -- is now allocating – nearly a quarter of a million dollars -- each year -- to support minority doctoral students, and o We have a new Pathfinder program -- that is bringing -- 8 to 10 minority doctoral students -- to the campus -- annually for lectures, visits and networking. o More than 500 faculty, staff and administrators have completed civil workplace training programs, and the Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Grant Fund has funded -- more than 30 awards -- for cross-cultural learning experiences. I suspect that diversity and inclusive excellence will get a lot of attention -- as -- we revise our new strategic plan.

7. There are many good ideas embedded in the existing reports and -- additional climate studies -- are planned for this spring. This gives us a solid foundation to develop -- an action-oriented plan. Clemson University has accomplished great things in the past -- and -- I believe we have an even brighter future ahead of us if -- we work together -- if we support and respect each other -- and -- if we provide a campus environment -- that allows everyone to succeed. Thank you all -- for -- your hard work -- and -- your dedication to our students. I hope you have a wonderful – restful – and -- peaceful -- holiday break.

Closing remarks of Provost Robert H. Jones: At this time, I would like to start closing our meeting with a few remarks. It’s been three months since I started my position at Clemson. I feel very fortunate to be here. Soon after I arrived, I began a listening tour to get a better understanding you and your aspirations. So far, I have visited 27 academic units, including some at our campuses outside of Clemson proper. I continue to be impressed by your focus on delivering high quality in all of our mission areas. More than ever, I am convinced that we have the determination, and the means for growing our reach and impact. I echo President’s Clements’s comment that we welcome and encourage your participation in our strategic plan refocus, which is off to a great start with leadership from Ellen Granberg and Brett Dalton, and with an amazing level of participation from faculty, staff,
and students. We are also moving deliberately on filling key leadership positions. Three searches have been launched so far:

- Vice President for Research;
- Associate Provost and Dean for Graduate Studies; and
- Dean of Libraries.

In the works are searches for a new

- Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies;
- Two new Associate Provosts to work in Faculty Affairs, Operations and Financial Management; and
- a Senior Leadership Position, yet to be defined, to help meet the needs of PSA and the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences.

This semester, many challenges and unfortunate events, most of them unforeseen, have changed our environment and will require new thinking and determination. At the same time, Clemson has also gained a high-level recognition for excellence in many dimensions; overall, I believe we are gaining very positive national attention like never before. What a semester! I hope we can continue our positive trends and I very much look forward to working with you to make that happen. This concludes the remarks for our meeting today.

9. **Old Business:** None

10. **New Business:** None

11. **Adjourn:** Provost Jones reminded the faculty that the next meeting will be held here in the Brooks Theater Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 2:47 pm. This meeting is not officially adjourned in order to permit voting a vote on our constitutional amendment. So, without adjourning, please permit me to wish you all a wonderful holiday break. And please join us in the lobby for light refreshments and a celebration of our award winners and successes.