

Information Item 2

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees Report

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
July 2018 Report
Thompson Mefford

Summary:

This is my last report as my term as the Faculty Representative. I would like to briefly describe the transition in my position and remind the Board of our central purpose as a modern University.

Selection of the next Faculty Representative:

At the time of writing, the faculty are in the process of selecting the next representative. The deadline for submission was June 22. The next representative will be selected by a committee composed of former representatives, Alumni Distinguished Professors, the President-Elect of the Faculty Senate, and the President of the Faculty Senate. We will announce the new representative at the July Board Meeting.

Whomever is selected, I encourage you to utilize this resource to get an “in the trenches” view of the University. I strongly suspect there will be issues faced in the coming years that will benefit from a non-administrative perspective. While many of the issues of University are discussed publicly during quarterly Board Meetings, a private conversation often generates a more frank discussion.

Clemson’s core function is to be a Seminary of Higher Learning:

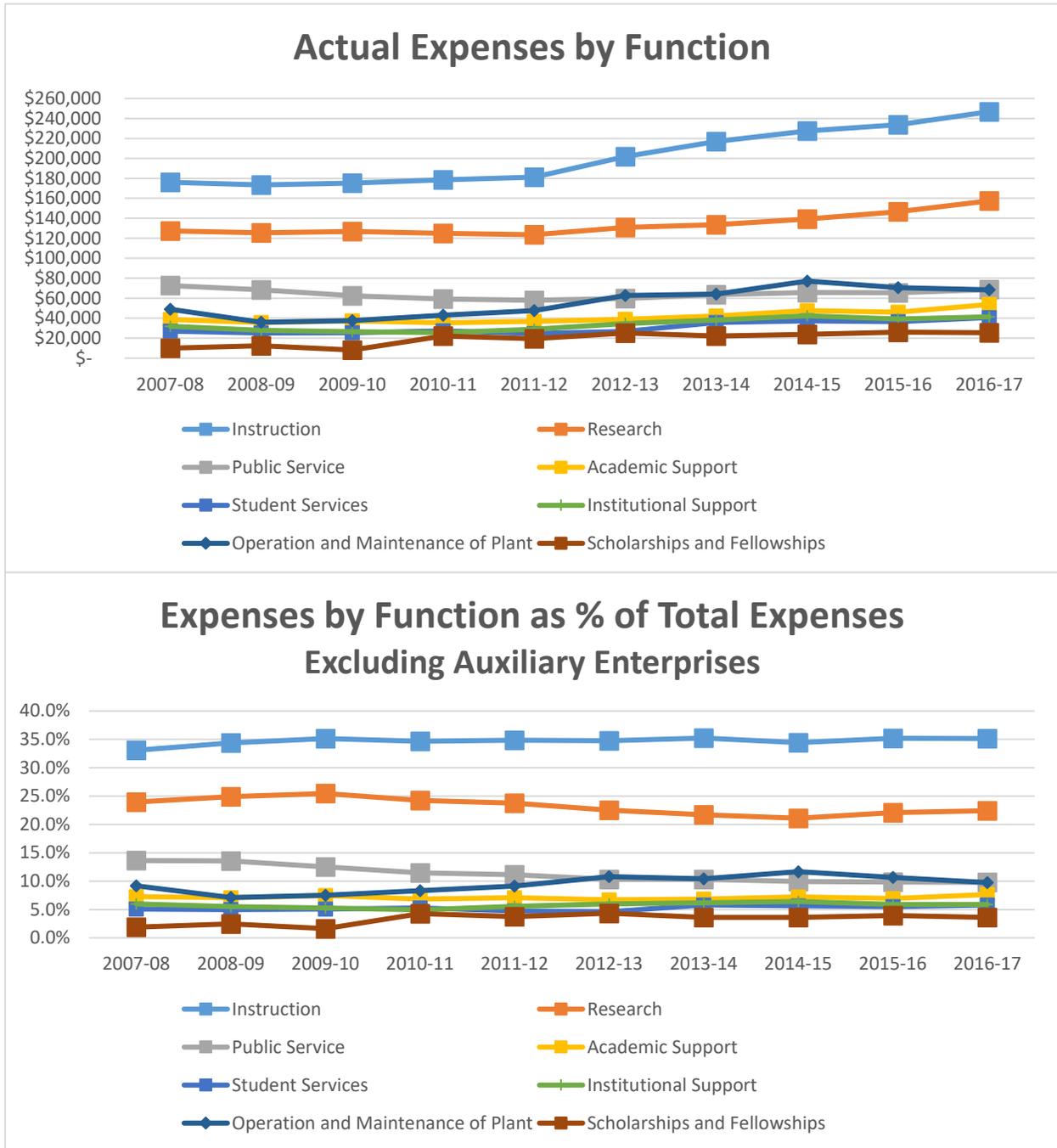
Despite the growing complexity of the University, it is always important to remember that we are an academic institution. That is, we are all here to create and pass on new knowledge. As you set the course for the future of Clemson, please keep in mind our founder’s goal; education must be at the core of our identity and actions.

Where we spend our money is perhaps one of the greatest indicators of where we as an organization places our priorities. Plotted on the following page¹ is the University expenditures for the past ten years in terms of actual dollars and percentage of total expenses. Looking at actual expenses, one will note the recent growth of the University. Nonetheless, throughout this time the relative percentage spent on instructional expenses has been sustained. More recently we have made investments throughout the University to attract and retain students, which is supportive of the ClemsonForward plan.

In taking this long view of our identity as an institution, I would strongly encourage the Board to be mindful of the preservation of the “Clemson Experience” in this year’s budgeting process. That is, utilize good budgeting and compensation practices to ensure that all students can have that meaningful interaction with a faculty member that makes Clemson special. By ensuring small student to faculty ratios along with opportunities for out of the classroom opportunities, we can continue the legacy of changing student lives through meaningful engagement with the

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faculty.



It has been an honor to serve the Board:

It has been both an honor and a pleasure to work with each member of the Board. Your passion for the University is infectious. Please reach out if I can be of assistance in the future.

ⁱ Budgets and Financial Planning, Clemson University, www.clemson.edu/finance/budgets/forms.html.