

## Information Item 3

### Faculty Senate Report

Faculty Senate President, Dr. Jan Rune Holmevik  
Presentation to the Clemson University Board of  
Trustees October, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Board,

There are 115 institutions that are classified as R1: Doctoral Universities – Highest research activity in the country. Clemson is one of them. I could not be more honored to stand before you today as an elected representative for the faculty that produces research at this highest level.

The ClemsonForward Strategic Plan aims to “consistently rank among the Carnegie tier one research institutions.” As a representative of the faculty, whose job it is to conduct research and discover new knowledge, I applaud this ambition. I am also intensely aware that, in order to deliver on it, it is going to take active and sustained faculty involvement. When I took over as Faculty Senate President in April, I pledged that we would be an active and engaged partner in this effort, and I renew that commitment to the Board here today. What we’re going to need from you is the support to enable us to do our part.

To put this into context, I want to use an analogy from the Athletics side of the house. The fact that our football team is enjoying unprecedented success today can be understood as a combination of several interlocking factors. The foresight to invest in a stadium, training facilities and related infrastructure is a key enabler. Strong and visionary leadership sets the course and keeps the effort on track. A world-class coaching and support staff, along with focused and sustained recruitment of the best talent anywhere, produces the results. Any one of these elements would not be enough by itself. It is the combination of all three that results in the incredible success we have seen these past few years.

The same will be true if we want to play in the R1 league. To firmly establish ourselves on that playing field, we’re going to need world-class research facilities powered by leading edge technologies. A researcher looking to further their career will always look at how well a research institution can facilitate their work and help them to succeed.

Whether it is MIT, Stanford or Clemson, faculty are going to want to see facilities and labs that enable and empower their research. We must be prepared to actively recruit the best talent from anywhere in the world, and, yes, we must also be prepared to compensate them competitively.

Student success must always be foremost on our minds, and, when it comes to research, that means the success of our doctoral students and post docs. Not only are R1 universities measured on the number of graduate students they produce each year, but these researchers-in-training are also key factors in the production and communication of the research itself. Having highly talented graduate students to work with is maybe one of the best methods to boost research productivity in the faculty. An important side benefit to this is that many of those graduate students will bring research-informed quality teaching to the undergraduate students thereby helping to make them more competitive for jobs.

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From a leadership perspective, we must devote ourselves to continuing to build and foster a true research culture at the University. The Faculty Senate has an important leadership role to play in this regard, and we have several initiatives underway this year to that end.

We are working on a resolution to introduce an improved career trajectory for our teaching faculty, which we believe will enable our tenure-track faculty to become more research-productive.

We are spearheading a new effort to establish a faculty club that we think will have a significant and positive impact on research collaboration and productivity across colleges and departments at the University.

We are connecting with the University's Inclusive Excellence initiatives as well as the ADVANCE project and other groups to help improve recruitment and retention of top tier research faculty from underrepresented groups and women faculty.

We have several other initiatives ongoing as well, so let me be clear; The Faculty Senate will be a strong and dedicated partner in creating the conditions of possibility that allow us to perform at the highest level of research.

I believe we should devote ourselves now to producing a Nobel Prize winner from the faculty of Clemson University by 2030. It is only impossible if we don't try.

Thank you,

Jan Rune Holmevik, Ph.D.  
Clemson University