

## A Message to the Board of Visitors from Faculty Senate

November 30, 2017

The Members of the Longwood Faculty Senate wish to express our appreciation to the Board of Visitors for its longstanding support for faculty salary increases and new faculty lines. These have been valuable in reducing compression issues among the faculty and have enabled us to better address our core mission of educating students.

We wish to share our concern that the Academic Affairs operating budget, specifically departmental budgets, has not increased. The earlier reduction to these budgets during the recession has not been replaced and further reductions took place in 2017-18. These reductions, due to the limited available funds from summer and intersession, adversely impact the faculty's ability to fully execute our mission to prepare citizen leaders. Some examples include:

- Reduction in support for faculty conference travel, a critical component of faculty development, especially for junior faculty;
- Reduction in funds for student research;
- Reduction in department programming;
- Reduction in funding for the Arts Council;
- Elimination of some stipends for area and program coordinators.

The role of summer and intersession funds in supporting Academic Affairs, in general, and department budgets, in particular, results in fluctuating budgets because funding depends on student enrollment. Although these sessions are valuable for many students and programs (e.g. graduate programs), many faculty are concerned that teaching during these periods may become expected, rather than optional.

The Faculty sincerely appreciates the efforts of President Reveley, Provost Neff, and Vice President Copeland to clarify the budget and address its challenges. There has been discussion of revamping the process for funding department budgets, including less reliance on intersession and summer funds. The Faculty Senate offers its full support for such measures and requests the Board's support, as well.