The 755th meeting of the Faculty Senate will feature a presentation Chancellor Subbaswamy and a brief update from Jenifer Normanly, co-chair of the Joint Task Force on Resource Allocation. We will then catch up on accumulated announcements and questions before moving on to the regular business.

**Presentation**

The Chancellor wants to discuss certain aspects of the budget with us, after which there will be time for budget-focused questions. The process of developing the state budget for FY 2017 has already begun, and as you all know it is a long process that starts with a budget proposal from the Governor in late January (a newly-succeeding governor gets a few extra weeks) and then goes through the legislative processes of committee work and floor action in the House, committee work and floor action in the Senate, any reconciliation between House and Senate versions, Governor action on the resulting budget, and Legislative action if needed. The Governor has 10 days for reviewing the Legislature’s work and can approve the whole budget, veto the whole budget, veto or reduce specific line items, veto “outside sections” or submit changes for consideration by the Legislature. This is a relatively strong set of executive powers. The Legislature can override a veto with a 2/3s vote, with the House voting first and the Senate voting only if the House passes an override. A look at past budget years shows that Governors frequently veto or reduce lines, and that the Legislature sometimes reacts with overrides. A sufficient amount of that activity can take the budget formulation well into July, as we well know.

There is a brief explanation of the whole process at www.malegislature.gov/Budget/Process which also has an indicator of where the process is at the moment (House Committee stage as of today) for citizen information.

**Update**

Co-chair Normanly will provide a brief update -- it will be brief; it has 3 slides and none of them are unreadable tables -- on JTFRA’s work regarding the budgeting process and its plans for activity between now and submission of its report to the Faculty Senate. The primary focus is on developing the budget process, particularly working out the mechanisms for College-level consultations including faculty other than chairs of departments and directors of programs. There will also be time for update-specific questions.

You will see during the presentation that the Faculty Senate will have the final version of JTFRA’s report in time for a meeting on May 5th. A meeting that day was put into the
Faculty Senate schedule with the notation “if needed,” and once you see the timeline you will understand why we do need to meet on May 5th.

Announcements

We may have a somewhat longer than usual announcements portion to make up for omitting them at the last meeting. I know that Student Government Association President Sionan Barrett will be informing us about the new SGA-administration consultation procedures, and expect other announcements.

Questions

We will have a full Question Period for whatever queries Senators wish to make.

Annual Reports

We will receive reports from the Research Council and the University Press Committee. You recall that the Press Committee reported in December. That report covered 213-14; this report covers 2014-15 and brings the Committee up to date in its reporting.

Consent Agenda: Courses

The Academic Matters and Graduate Councils and their respective course committees have been busy and are presenting courses for Faculty Senate approval. Again, we are using a consolidated consent agenda, but any Senator may request that any course be separated out for individual discussion and consideration.

New Business

We have two items of New Business, not consolidated into a consent agenda because they refer to very different sorts of things. The first is approval of revisions to the Master of Architecture Program. The second is approval of the 2018-19 Academic Calendar. I realize that most of us can barely get past Spring 2016 in our thinking, but the calendar needs to be set well in advance so the various parts of campus can prepare for the academic year activities.