Dr. Hopkins announced that the Ohio Attorney General found no evidence of legal violations or wrongdoing related to Wright State’s use of the Ron Wine Consulting Group. Dr. Hopkins informed the Senate that a Dayton Daily News article, dated 15 February, 2016, was misleading for claiming a drop in donations to Wright State. The article did not factor pledged gifts which are a significant portion of funding for younger universities. The Rise-Shine Campaign has raised around $131 million to date. Alumni giving accounts for 24%, up from 9% in the 2006 campaign. Over 29,000 individuals donated to the campaign, with over 16,000 first-time donors to the university. There will be a celebration of the campaign’s success on April 19th. http://bit.ly/1pql1Vv

Executive Committee Report
Last month the Executive Committee and Faculty Budget Priority Committee requested three items for delivery in March:

- Progress reports and working drafts of the comprehensive financial plan being developed for the 2016-17 budget and a multi-year financial plan to combat current fiscal challenges related to declining SSI and reserves. The plan will require belt-tightening and pose more challenges compared to the post-Great-Recession-recovery due to significantly less State support, however Dr. Hopkins stressed that the Wright State cannot “cut [its] way to excellence”. President Hopkins, Provost Sudkamp, and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Ulliman plan to meet with the Senate Executive & Budget Priority Committees, before the next Senate meeting, in order to brief Faculty leadership and receive feedback to further develop the priorities of the comprehensive financial plan.

- The Faculty Senate approved two new minor programs for Forensic Studies and Veterinary Services. The Senate also approved a new certificate in Arts Management and degrees in Leadership Studies in Education.

- The Faculty Senate approved the new academic programs admission requirements for the Rehabilitation Services major for direct from high school applicants.

President’s Report Cont.
IV. Branding & Marketing
In response to faculty feedback submitted since the previous Senate meeting, Dr. Hopkins expressed that there are new initiatives at Wright State not to lose all of the research and work, and that “the brand, the marketing, and the messaging must move forward”. Dr. Hopkins went on to inform the Senate that it’s clear that the proposed new logo is not ready to move forward and has been suspended.

V. Faculty Stipend Request
Dr. Hopkins informed the Senate that the administration has compiled stipend data at the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Total annual stipends for undesignated, classified, and faculty-rank employees exceed $4 million and it’s clear that for some stipends that the equity for similar work is not appropriate. Dr. Hopkins indicated that he looks forward to working with the Senate Executive & Budget Priority Committees to develop policy to bring stipends under control.

VI. Budget Update
Dr. Hopkins informed the Senate that the administration will update on the 2016-17 budget that a multi-year comprehensive financial plan to combat current fiscal difficulties related to declining SSI and reserves. The plan will require belt-tightening and pose more challenges compared to the post-Great-Recession-recovery due to significantly less State support, however Dr. Hopkins stressed that the Wright State cannot “cut [its] way to excellence”.

President’s Report: I. Biennial Capital Budget
http://www.obm.ohio.gov/budget/capital/

Dr. Hopkins announced that a Capital Bill is expected to be introduced in the State Legislature in April, 2016. A draft of the bill indicates that Wright State may receive $13 million in capital project funding out of $25 million requested. Prior to 2011, capital funding was dispersed based on total institutional square footage but is now decided by a state commission charged with earmarking funding towards specific priorities and projects. Wright State’s list of proposed capital projects and priorities was developed with input from the Faculty Senate Building & Grounds Committee.

II. Dayton Daily News Articles & Updates

III. H-181 Investigation
Dr. Hopkins informed the Senate that there are indications that the ongoing federal investigation will come to a close in the next few weeks. The investigation involves Wright State’s use of H-181 visas in an applied research grant from 2010. Dr. Hopkins stressed that the Senate and Wright State performed its due diligence when it learned of the investigation by bringing in special legal counsel associated with the Ohio Attorney General, a forensic audit team, and external compliance consultants. Since then the University has taken additional steps by adding a new General Counsel, two new Assistant General Counsels, and increasing staff in the area of research compliance.

(continued in column 2)