Provost Remarks
The University of Akron Faculty Senate
April 2, 2015

Sexual Assault Survey
UA is currently asking faculty, staff and students to complete a survey to help us better understand issues related to sexual respect and sexual misconduct. The survey is anonymous and will take about 10 – 15 minutes to complete. The survey was developed as part of our commitment to raise awareness regarding the nature of sexual assault and how best to respond to it.

Higher Learning Commission Visit
We are still awaiting the report from the team that conducted the site visit in February. Once the report is received, the next step will be to review the response and correct any errors. We anticipate the final disposition of the results of the focus visit to be communicated to us by HLC sometime in September.

Emergency Management Exercise
I had the privilege of participating in a tabletop exercise involving a scenario that closed campus for more than a couple days impairing the quality of academic programs. It illustrated to me the need to conduct an academic tabletop exercise to assure that we can preserve the quality of our academic programs should such an event occur. I will consult with Chair Rich and others about how we might proactively conduct such an exercise to assure that we know how to respond as favorably as possible.

College Strategic Planning Process
We have completed the strategic planning process with the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Professions, the College of Applied Science and Technology and the School of Law. The documents will be shared with the Board of Trustees for their reaction and comments. We are anticipating that the remainder of the colleges will be completed by the end of the month. It is important to get it done correctly, not quickly. The intent is to align resources with strategies so, when we look back ten years from now, we see the trajectory of ability and successes, as well as return on investment. I look forward to working with the deans to ensure the strategic plans are actionable and endorsed by the faculty.