Dean Sims presented a personnel request an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education. Dr. Sims provided information about the growth in specific courses in Early Childhood Education. Overall the number of candidates majoring in Early Childhood education has increased from 133 in 2014 to 184 in 2016. She also detailed some new policies from the AL Dept. of Education that will require more courses and more field experience placements.

Dr. Sims next presented the operational budget request for $114,000 which is up from $105,355. The increase is mainly due to increased travel.

The critical needs presented by Dr. Sims, totaling $30,000, include:

- ARI Training which is no longer provided by the state – $5000
- CAEP Training which is the new certification, replacing NCATE – $10,000
- edTPA assessments – the University previously received $12,000 per year for past 2 years for this purpose – funds are needed for A/V equipment, faculty and facilitator training - $15,000

Additionally, Dr. Sims would like to have a new student fee established, beginning Fall 2017, to help cover costs associated with the edTPA assessment.