

November 11, 2016

Dear FSU Students,

The past few days have been emotional for almost all Americans with feelings ranging from joy to upset and fear. We see these emotions being displayed across the country and I have heard and felt them from students, staff and faculty on campus. I would like to share some of my thoughts with each of you. And I apologize for the length of this, but I want you to know I am reading the correspondence forwarded to me.

This country will be going through a transition unlike any in recent history. As an institution of higher learning, Frostburg State University is a place for ideas to be expressed and discussed. It must occur, however, in a civil fashion with respect for differing views. I ask that those who are celebrating the results of the election *please* be aware of the hurt, disappointment, and fear that others may be experiencing. And, for those who are feeling any uncertainty or angst, *please* use this time to reflect, to understand, and discuss your feelings.

The one feeling that we should not allow to continue is a fear for one's safety. Please be assured the university will not tolerate physical or verbal attacks on others. I ask us all to respect each other and engage in meaningful dialogue to learn from each other. On a personal note, I was a student during a time of change and uncertainty, the Vietnam era, including the time of the Kent State shootings. I was fortunate to be at a university that allowed and encouraged us, as students, to talk about our feelings and concerns in meaningful ways. Now, as a President, I ask you to join me, the administration and the faculty to help create those conversations on campus. I will share that the use of chalk and spray-painted graffiti on campus is not creating that venue and is not helping us move forward.

We talk about Frostburg State University being "A World of Experiences" with an emphasis on the experience part. What I have valued very much in my time at Frostburg State is that this is a campus of "doers." I am up to helping each of you use this time as an opportunity to find avenues for healthy discussion and understanding of the various emotions being expressed across our campus. Are you willing to work with me to accomplish that? As the next generation of leaders in this country and the world, can you help me create those avenues for healthy and productive discussion? I can tell you that my time as an undergraduate during very uncertain times shaped my life in many ways. I want to return that favor to you by making this time one that helps you for the future.

I am off campus today and tomorrow. **On Sunday, I invite anyone in the campus community, especially students, who have ideas and want to talk about them to meet with me in the Atkinson Room in the Lane Center between 1 and 3.** I look forward to seeing you there.

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