Good morning,

Here is my biweekly email update on several topics.

Strategic Planning. Dr. Pat Sanaghan visited FSU last week for several open meetings with the university community to discuss the upcoming strategic planning process. I want to thank Drs. Tom Bowling, Karen Keller, and Stephen Simpson for agreeing to serve as co-chairs of the task force. Invitations to faculty, staff, and students to serve on the task force have been sent out. On Oct 17 & 18, Dr. Sanaghan will be back at FSU to meet with the task force members. A website will be created to keep the university community informed as we move forward.

Enrollment. We have mixed news with regard to our fall enrollment. For undergraduate enrollment (total is 4,884), we are down 35 full-time students and 42 part-time students. Our incoming first-year class was smaller than last year, down 102. However, our returning student numbers showed an increase that reduced the gap. Our graduate enrollment is down 4 students (total is 792). We are looking at our scholarship policies to focus merit scholarships on student recruitment. More on that in a future email.

Middle States Update. Work on Institutional Assessment (Standard 7) continues. I met with several staff members yesterday who provided a near-final draft on establishing a Staff Senate. That draft will be shared with the ad hoc University Advisory Council and the university community. Dr. Evan Offstein reported to me that there is alignment of our General Education program with assessment (Standard 12). This Link answers many of our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Evan has said, "I've been enthused regarding the commitment I've seen from the Gen Ed Committee, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Mike Murtagh, and especially the department chairs who are providing oversight and guidance as we begin our sustainable and systematic effort to capture GEP Learning Objectives." Thanks to all helping us with these monitoring reports.

I thank everyone once again for their commitment to our students and hope everyone enjoys the fall weather.

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