Good Afternoon,

Here are some campus updates:

Visit by Senator Cardin. We were pleased to host a listening session on Thursday with the senior U.S. senator from Maryland, Sen. Ben Cardin. We had a panel of students, as well as other students, faculty and staff participating. He heard about our series of town halls sponsored by the Beall Institute for Public Affairs. The Senator commented later on the quality of comments from FSU students, faculty and staff and on the importance of FSU to the region. Thanks to those who attended this session and the town halls.

NCATE. The Education faculty and students met with an accrediting visit team from NCATE (the organization that accredits teacher education programs). The team was very complimentary of FSU's program and sent positive signals regarding our continuing accreditation for our teacher education programs. (Official notification will not come until the fall.) Thanks to all who made that happen!

Graduation. We will be hooding master's students this May. I have asked the graduation ceremony committee to look for ways to make the process a bit more efficient. Also, we will be asking each graduate to identify a faculty or staff member who has made a difference to him or her while at FSU. My office will send an invitation to graduation to those individuals. When I meet with alums, they often mention people who made a difference to them. I believe these invitations are a way for our May graduates to honor those who went the extra step here at FSU.

Inauguration. Thanks to all who organized the installation ceremony last Friday, and thanks to all who attended. The week itself was special starting with the Student Art Show the previous weekend; the Ice Cream Social on Thursday (thanks Chartwells!); the Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday; and, concluding with the President's Concert on Sunday. All those events, along with DIII week for our student-athletes, coincided with the 119th Anniversary of the founding of Frostburg State University, which was on Sunday April 9.

Finally, please keep FSU student, Orion Belete, in your thoughts and prayers following his accident on campus last week. I wish everyone celebrating Easter or Passover this week the best. We are getting to the home stretch for this semester!