

Aug. 25, 2016

Good morning,

Welcome back to all as we are quickly approaching the beginning of classes next Monday. Here is an update on several items over the past two weeks.

Provost Search Process. Dr. Andrea Hamos, our search consultant from Academic Search, was on campus this past Tuesday to meet with faculty and staff to help us prepare the ad and process for the national search for the provost. There will be a web link in place later next week which will outline the process and keep the university community informed of the search progress. The members of the search committee will be announced once all members have accepted the invitation to serve.

Biotech company coming to Frostburg. You may have read that a biotech company is considering locating operations in the Frostburg area. The economic development office for Allegany county has been active in working with a company expressing an interest in moving some of its operations to Frostburg. The company's leadership is attracted to the area, in large part, because of FSU. We have been supportive of the company locating in the region with the hope it may lead to research opportunities for our faculty and internship placements for our students. As is typical in negotiating a relocation, confidential discussions between the company and economic development officials have been ongoing regarding many of the steps and decisions that must be concluded for this relocation to become a reality. We will schedule discussions with interested faculty about potential collaborations once we know more from the economic development officials.

Middle States Accreditation. Dr. Sean McKittrick, our MSCHE liaison, visited campus on August 11 and met with faculty, deans, and administration throughout the day. We had very good discussions regarding the monitoring reports for Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment of General Education. Dr. Evan Offstein will be leading efforts to prepare those two monitoring reports. You can expect additional communications from Dr. Offstein once the semester gets under way. While we have considerable work to accomplish in documenting our efforts in assessment, at the end of the day there was a sense of confidence we can meet MSCHE's expectations by March 2017.

My best to each of you as we start the fall 2016 semester!

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