

July 22, 2016

Good Morning.

As we pass the midpoint of the summer break, please let me provide my biweekly update.

*Budget & Facilities.* We are in the final stages of closing out the 2016 fiscal year. Some good news is that we are going to be able to put some money in our cash reserves (technically, the “fund balance”). We were also able to complete some additional small maintenance projects on campus. I have asked VP David Rose and the facilities staff to update our list of repairs and improvements for campus with a focus on ensuring accessibility and safety. The facilities staff is also working on the timeline and plans for residence hall renovations. This upcoming week Mr. Rose and I will be meeting with the Maryland Department of Budget and Management to answer questions regarding the plans for the new Educational Professions and Health Sciences Building.

*Community Colleges.* I have met with the presidents of Hagerstown Community College and Allegany College to discuss our curricular offerings that could serve as bachelor’s degree completion programs for their associate’s degree graduates and to talk about what we could do to make the transfer of students more seamless. I’ve asked Interim Provost Ahmad Tootoonchi to have discussions with the deans and faculty leadership on this topic.

*Enrollment and Retention.* Our incoming class is smaller than last year by approximately 10 percent. The decline has been primarily in students from the Baltimore area. The number of returning students continues to be strong. The FY17 budget does reflect these enrollment patterns.

*Middle States.* Our MSCHE liaison, Dr. Sean McKittrick, will be on campus Aug. 11 to discuss the two monitoring reports that are due in March of 2017. The headline in the Baltimore Sun caused us some PR problems, but I believe we have responded appropriately. Middle States has also indicated publicly that the warning status is the mildest step they take, and they are confident we can meet their expectations regarding Standards 7 and 12.

*Community Outreach.* I continue to meet with alumni. I also toured the Western Maryland Health System complex and met with its executive staff. We discussed rural health care issues in Western Maryland and what FSU’s role is. They were very complimentary of our programs, faculty, and students. Last week, I met with the federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission about funding opportunities for FSU and with Maryland Secretary of Transportation Pete Rahn while they were on campus. I had the pleasure of having breakfast with President Emerita Catherine Gira yesterday in Columbia, Md. I plan to be visiting offices on campus more over the next couple of weeks.

I hope the summer continues to go well for all, and thank you for your continuing warm welcome and support.