

June 22, 2016

Good Afternoon,

Please allow me to share an update on my activities over the past two weeks.

ad hoc University Council will have its first meeting next week. Membership includes faculty members Dr. Mike Murtagh, Dr. Ben Norris, and Dr. Julie Hartman-Linck, faculty appointed by the Faculty Senate chair; Mr. Nick DeMichele, Mr. James Kirk and Ms. Dasia Scott, students appointed by the SGA President; Mr. Reid Bluebaugh, Ms. Cynthia Smith, and Ms. Jody Pifer, staff members elected by staff; and the VPs. Minutes from the meetings of this group will be shared campus-wide.

Preview FSU has started and the second of the four sessions ended today. The Pealer Recital Hall was near capacity for the first two sessions and the excitement and enthusiasm of the incoming students and their parents was great to see. Thanks to all the staff, faculty, and students who are making these sessions a success.

Meetings and Events. I continue to meet with external groups, including the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Past Presidents, the Allegany County Commissioners, and officials from the city of Frostburg. Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, Dr. John Bowman, and I visited USM-Hagerstown to meet with faculty and visited Hagerstown Community College where we met with the President and Chief Academic Officer. Much of the discussion focused on enhancing FSU's visibility and outreach to the population in Washington County. I also visited Frostburg Grows with Dean Joe Hoffman and hosted a reception, sponsored by the FSU Foundation for alums from IBM and Orbital ATK. I continue to find everyone complimenting FSU faculty and staff and indicating a willingness to help our students succeed.

Facilities Update. Construction of the Public Safety Building is under way. We also received approval from the Board of Regents for construction of a new residence hall and renovation of several of our downhill residence halls. More details on this last item will come out soon.

Provost Search. We will be undertaking a national search for the provost position this fall. I am evaluating higher education search firms now to decide if a firm can assist us in the search, specifically in assisting FSU in developing the list of qualifications and experiences we seek in the next provost and recruiting candidates for us. I'll be having discussions with faculty and academic leadership about the process over the next several weeks.

Thanks again for your continuing support of our efforts, and I hope the summer continues to go well for everyone.

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President

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