

May 15, 2017

Good afternoon,

We are nearing the end of the spring semester, and I wish everyone well for a successful conclusion to this academic year. We anticipate over 830 graduates at our two commencement ceremonies on May 25, which will be our 150th Commencement. Here are some additional updates:

**Strategic Plan.** The co-chairs of the strategic planning task force are using the results of the recent goal-setting session to develop a draft document for university-wide input. The final document, with yearly objectives, will be presented to and discussed by the university community when we return in the fall. Updates will continue to be posted online [here](#) (FSU login required).

**Parking.** The parking committee's first set of recommendations has been implemented. The recommendations include:

1. Both red permit (faculty and staff) and black permit (students) parking lots will not be ticketed, nor will the permit status be enforced, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The one exception is the Framptom Lot, which will remain a red permit lot 24/7 due to the prevalence of evening classes in that region of campus and the need for sufficient faculty parking there.
2. The approximately 15 spaces currently allocated for faculty parking in the divided row in both the Performing Art Lots (red) and the Lower Pullen Lot (black) will become all student parking (black).

I anticipate the committee will develop additional recommendations early in the fall.

**Facilities Update.** Dave Rose and I met with the Board of Regents Committee on Finance this past week to review a number of facilities projects. We are scheduled to begin renovations on some of older residence halls this summer. That project will continue through at least two summers. The bidding process for designing and building our new residence hall is under way. We also received approval from the Maryland Department of Budget and Management for our initial plans for the Education and Health Sciences building. The state budget includes an additional \$1 million for planning of this building.

**Committee Meetings.** I met with the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) and the Tree Campus USA committees this past week to discuss future initiatives. I have asked PACS to meet with SGA leaders in the fall to review the allocation percentages and operating processes, since the funding for this committee comes from the student sustainability fee. The Tree Campus USA committee will be updating the Campus Tree Care plan, and I asked that the plan align with our campus master plan as we update that for the Board of Regents next year.

**Late Registration Fee.** The late registration fee for fall semester registration has been rescinded until July 1 to give students who have not registered the opportunity to do so. I encourage students who have not registered to meet with their advisors and complete the registration process before leaving campus in order to get into the necessary courses while seats remain.

Lastly, congratulations to all of the students and faculty for the presentations and performances over the past weeks celebrating their scholarly and creative works. It is always a highlight of an institution to recognize these efforts. Well done!

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