

Aug. 27, 2018

Welcome back to everyone as we begin the 2018-19 academic year. Here is an update on a few items:

Enrollment. As you may have noticed from last week's message, we have hired Ms. Arlene Cash to serve in the newly created role of VP for Enrollment Management. We created this position to help FSU recruit more students from Maryland and the region and, more importantly, to coordinate our services so that FSU students succeed and graduate on time. Although we won't have official numbers for a few weeks (census period), the number of new students this fall appears to be ahead of last year. We are still processing students who are returning, especially those who are part-time. Thanks to all for helping promote FSU as a school of choice.

Construction. Construction is under way for the new residence hall. We also did some updating and renovation in Cumberland Hall. We continue to work on Annapolis Hall and hope to have the new bathrooms completed this fall. As you will have noted in my message last evening, we have been addressing issues in Cambridge Hall (along with the offices for the Departments of Sociology/Social Work) and will continue to do so across all of our current residence halls. You will see continued attention to our residence halls over the upcoming weeks. Design work for the new Education and Health Sciences Building is under way, and we will have updates as we progress with the design.

Diversity and Inclusion. We had a very successful session on implicit bias this past week, with many individuals from across the University participating in a workshop led by Dr. Laura McNeal, law professor from Harvard. Dr. McNeal has been researching and teaching about achieving access and equity for marginalized populations and has appeared on many national television networks explaining her work. Thanks to Dean Williams and Dr. Bowling for making this workshop possible on campus. I will be meeting leadership from the Faculty and Staff Senates and SGA to look into developing space on campus to honor and further develop the diversity and inclusion on campus.

Planning. You should notice new banners on campus outlining our strategic plan. We continue to focus on 12 action items that address the four strategic goals for FSU. I'll be highlighting the plan at our State of the University presentation on Thursday, Sept 6, at 3 p.m. in Pealer Recital Hall. All are invited! We are also updating our campus master plan, and there will be opportunities in September to attend presentations about the master plan and offer your thoughts and input.

To Students. I recommend that all students, especially our new students, get into your studies early. Get to know your professors and continue to develop friendships with your fellow students. Getting involved in student organizations (the Student Organization Fair is Wednesday, Aug. 29, at the Clock Tower) and volunteering time on campus or in the community can increase your likelihood of success. Please stay in touch with your advisors. If you have questions, they are a good starting point to get the answers. Let's have a successful and rewarding academic year.