

March 30, 2018

Good Afternoon,

Here are a few highlights from the past two weeks:

New VP for Administration and Finance: I am pleased to announce that Mr. Leon Wyden, CPA, will be joining us on May 14 as our Vice President for Administration and Finance, replacing Mr. Dave Rose, who retired last December. Mr. Wyden has worked at a number of colleges and universities in the areas of finance and administration. He most recently served as the Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer at the University of Findlay in Ohio. Please join me in thanking Ms. Denise Murphy, who has stepped in to serve as the Interim VP during the search process.

Visit by Senator Van Hollen: U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen have visited FSU during the past few weeks. Senator Van Hollen met with students this week for an open session where he talked about the budgeting process and some other recent bills before Congress. Both senators received a briefing on recent activities at FSU, including the increased focus on health care and regional development. Both senators also heard about our priority to continue to keep FSU as affordable as possible. Senator Van Hollen noted that Pell grants would be increased next year.

Listening Session in Cambridge Hall: I met informally with a group of students in Cambridge Hall this past Wednesday to hear what was on their minds. The topics included the condition of the residence halls, dining hall plans, places to sit outside (when spring arrives!), and classroom instruction. A shout-out to the faculty – the consensus from the students is that the faculty are “awesome”! The next informal gathering will be in Edgewood Commons on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m.

Capital Budget: Good news on a couple of fronts – I testified before the state legislature twice in March to secure the last of our planning appropriations for the new Education and Health Sciences Building. The legislature recommended the requested \$2 million for planning this upcoming year. We are now awaiting the Board of Public Works to approve the architectural firm for the design of the building. The Finance Committee of the Board of Regents also approved an additional \$6 million for the new residence hall. The additional money was needed because of increased construction costs. Construction on the new residence hall will begin in the next few months. On a related note, the target date for reoccupying Annapolis Hall, which has been under renovation this academic year, is this fall.

Another Quick History Tidbit: As we approach the 120th anniversary of our founding on April 9, I’ve been reading through the 1898 issues of the *Frostburg Mining Journal* about the approval process for the “State Normal School #2” (Normal School #1 is now Towson). There was a battle for where the school should be located – Frostburg, Cumberland, or Oakland – and, at times, it got a bit nasty. Here is what the *Journal* published on Feb. 12, 1898, edition in an open letter to the legislative delegation from Western Maryland:

*As the true arbiters of Normal School location, have you calculated the possible, not to say probable, cost of an epidemic of typhoid fever in a State school in Cumberland?*

*How much in loss of time through sickness?*

*How much in doctors’ bills?*

*How much in funeral expenses?*

*And there are other questions.*

Have an enjoyable weekend!

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD  
President  
Frostburg State University  
101 Braddock Road  
Frostburg, MD 21532-2303

Voice: 301.687.4111  
Fax: 301.687.7070



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