

Nov. 28, 2018

Good Afternoon,

Here's an update on some campus activities.

**Middle States Accreditation.** The Middle States Commission on Higher Education accepted our monitoring report that was sent in September. That means we have fulfilled all of their requests with regard to our self-study and site visit from 2016. We will continue to submit annual reports as required of all institutions, and our next site visit will be during the 2024-25 school year. Thank you to all who helped in preparing the data and the reports over the past two years

**Excellence in Academic Advising Process.** We had a successful launch of our Excellence in Academic Advising planning process prior to Thanksgiving. Thank you to Ben Norris, Jay Hegeman and the committee members who have undertaken this process. You should recall that academic advising was an area identified for us to strengthen in our self-study. And, as a result, it became part of our strategic plan. FSU was one of 12 schools selected nationally to be part of this planning process with the intent to bring and develop effective best practices in academic advising to our students and faculty. We'll be spending much of this year in self-study and planning steps to implement next year.

**Storybook Holiday.** Storybook Holiday is this Saturday. It is a fun day where our students, faculty, staff and alumni engage in the local community to celebrate the upcoming holidays. It starts with Elf Olympics in the morning and ends with a holiday movie in the evening. My personal favorite is meeting the children's book author and/or illustrator who engages with young children about the writing/illustrating process. And, the parade is always fun as well. I'm looking forward to seeing student groups in the parade. The local children (and parents) enjoy the parade. More information and a schedule can be found [here](#).

**Theatre and Music.** The next two weeks are filled with the performing arts as well. There are a number of student recitals and music performances over the next two weeks, highlighted by the Holiday Concert featuring multiple ensembles on December 9. And, there is the FSU holiday play, *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, which starts this Friday and concludes on December 9. Schedules can be found [here](#).

**Residence Halls Update.** We are nearing completion on the renovations to Annapolis Hall. Much of the major work this semester has been on renovations to bathrooms and shower facilities. We plan on having Annapolis Hall ready for Cumberland Hall students to move to before the spring 2019 semester. At that point we will begin renovations on the bathrooms and showers in Cumberland. We are still examining options with regard to Cambridge Hall.

**Football Success.** Congratulations and thanks to the student-athletes and coaching staff on a very successful football season. I heard many positive comments from community members about the team this year. And, as important and as is true of all of our teams, the community talks not only about the athletic accomplishments but also what the student-athletes are doing in the community.

We've got not quite two weeks of classes left, so I know it will be crunch time for both students and faculty. Good luck to all, and keep at it! Lastly, the wind is supposed to die down sometime later today – keep our fingers crossed on that one!

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