

Nov. 7, 2017

Good morning,

I'm sending a quick reminder that registration for both winter intersession and the spring semester is under way. Also, with the change in weather and flu season coming upon us, please get a flu shot if you haven't already. Shots are available at the Brady Health Center as well as many local pharmacies and clinics.

Here's an update on several items:

**Strategic Planning.** The strategic planning task force met last week to review input from several town halls and an online survey. The group of faculty, staff, and students reviewed and refined a number of action items and assigned a timeline to the items. I am working with the three co-chairs to take that information and put the final plan together with our vision, values, themes, goals, priorities, and action items. We hope to have that completed over the next two weeks.

**Position Searches.** The submission dates have passed for applicants for the deans of the Colleges of Business and Education and for the vice president for Administration and Finance. Committees are reviewing the materials from qualified candidates, and we hope to have finalists to campus for interviews prior to the end of the fall semester.

**Accreditation News.** As I mentioned earlier, we received an excellent report from the visiting team from Middle States and await the formal decision from the MSCHE Commission in late November. Regarding accreditations specific to academic disciplines, NCATE recently notified the Department of Educational Professions that we have received full reaccreditation for our teacher education programs. We also had a team visit of our collaborative mechanical engineering program from ABET. The visit went well, and we will await the full report once it is available from University of Maryland College Park and ABET.

**Homecoming.** We had a very successful homecoming weekend a couple of weeks ago. Alumni commented on the wonderful weather and the many events that took place. Thanks to Alumni Relations and the faculty, staff, and students that welcomed alums back to FSU. Strengthening these relationships are very important as we are looking to be more intentional in networking our current students with successful alums. Photos from the weekend are on the Alumni Association Flickr pages, so be sure to check them out [here](#).

**Budget.** Because of our lower enrollment this year, we have had to find ways to reduce our expenses. I'm pleased that the vice presidents, working with faculty and staff leadership, have been able to reduce the deficit significantly. The faculty and staff senates, as well as SGA, received updates last week. I hope to be able to report to the entire university community early next week on all of the actions we are taking to close the deficit entirely.

**Avoiding Food Waste.** FSU has been committed to sustainability on campus and in the community. Congratulations to all involved, the student organizers and our food service provider, Chartwells, and their actions to reduce food waste:

<https://www.frostburg.edu/news/2017/10/frostburg-states-food-recovery-network-cuts-food-waste-and-feeds-people-in-need.php>

I wish everyone well as we begin to move into the holiday season and the last third of the fall semester.

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