

Sept. 11, 2018

Good morning,

I hope everyone is getting settled in for the semester. Here is an update on a few items:

**9/11 Remembrance.** On this day, please take a moment to remember those lost in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Members of our chapter of the Student Veterans of America have created a flag display as a memorial on the lawn between the Lane Center and Pullen Hall. I invite you to stop by.

**Strategic Planning.** I've attached a handout that was distributed last Thursday at the State of the University address. The vision statement, drafted by a task force of over 50 university members, is the driving force for our actions through 2023. What that vision statement led to was four goals. The first two are clearly student-focused and will require substantial and sustained efforts on our part to be successful. The third goal speaks to our commitment to the region. I am very pleased that the governor and state legislature supported this goal by giving FSU an additional \$300,000 per year to support our work within the region. The fourth goal is more internal and recognizes our need to carefully align our resources to support the plan. As I described last Thursday, we set aside \$176K last year and \$125K this year for some major initiatives. Lastly, you will see 12 action items that the task force developed from these goals. These action items, each tied to one or more goals, are specific to what we hope to accomplish by 2023. I'll be scheduling meetings with individual departments this year to talk more about these action items.

**Appalachian Festival.** It's this weekend, with an emphasis on Exploring Diversity in Appalachia. The festival, starting Thursday evening, includes music and the arts as well as a symposium on Friday that celebrates diversity in Appalachia. Here's a link to see the full schedule: <https://www.frostburg.edu/annual-events/afestival/index.php>. (Watch your email for any venue changes based on the weather.)

**Physician Assistant program.** The PA program passed its next-to-last hurdle with program approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. There will be a site visit by the national accrediting body for Physician Assistants in October. This program, which will be located at USM-Hagerstown, is a joint effort with many partners including local, state and federal government entities, and regional health systems in Western Maryland. Thanks to all at FSU that have gotten us to this point in the process.

**Enrollment update.** Our official census data will be released on Wednesday. The enrollment data from the end of the first week showed we were up this year when looking at new students (first-year, transfers, and readmits). We graduated more than 1,000 undergraduates this past year, the second year we had over 1,000 graduates. As a result, the number of returning students was down. I was pleased, however, to see the percentage of returning students was up over the previous year. *I encourage all students, if you need help with your studies, reach out to your advisor, your instructors, and offices on campus.*

**Student meetings.** I met with the SGA last week to present an update on our facilities planning for the next decade. **I'll be doing another presentation on the facilities plan on Wednesday, Sept 12, at 3:30 p.m. in Gira 397. All are welcome to attend.**

I met with SGA President Ben Forrest and Vice President Jenna Puffinburger to discuss my priorities for this academic year and hear those of SGA. I also met with another group of student leaders to listen to their thoughts about campus life for students of color. I want to thank Milan Williams from BSA for arranging the meeting. We plan to have additional meetings this semester and invite other administration leaders to these meetings.

**Weather.** With the threat of Hurricane Florence hitting the Carolinas' coast, I want to let you know we are monitoring the path of the storm. We'll have updates later this week. What seems to be most likely is plenty of rain. As you know, we have had a wet summer, so the possibility of localized flooding may occur in the region. I just ask everyone to be cautious and watch for messages about the weather. We want everyone safe. Now would be a good time to sign up for Burg Alerts or check your registration to make sure it has not expired and that it has been validated. Log in/sign up with your FSU credentials [here](#) to check.