

Sept. 28, 2018

Good morning,

Here's an update on a number of items.

Residence halls, etc. Thank you to the students, parents, staff, and faculty who have helped students relocate from Cambridge Hall. We held several meetings last week to hear student concerns and describe the moving process. We are going to get estimates on what needs to be done (and costs) for remediating Cambridge Hall once again.

Questions came up about the Guild Center as well. We are awaiting an external report due early next week regarding Guild. We have remediated the basement level, but the continuing rain and humidity contributes to a feeling of dampness. While we tackle these issues, please know FSU is not alone. I'm aware of this problem on other campuses along the East Coast and mid-Atlantic region. The meetings with students last week led to other discussion items that I will be raising with the SGA and the University Advisory Council.

State of the University. For anyone who wants to watch the State of the University presentation, it's available on our [YouTube Channel](#), broken down into segments by division.

Strategic planning. Following the State of the University meeting, I sensed planning fatigue on campus. I suggest we take a hiatus from planning and engage in some active doing. With each biweekly email, I will highlight some aspect of our work on the strategic plan. I've attached a graphic I hope is helpful (also viewable [here](#)). It features the six sentences of our vision statement along with the action items associated with the vision. Our Office of Assessment and Institutional Research is developing a webpage for each of these action items.

Here's a brief update about **Action Item #11**: As we implement a revised budgeting model, we are working the performance metrics. For the academic side, we continue to participate with over 200 institutions as part of the University of Delaware's National Study of Instructional Costs and Productivity. On the support side, we are issuing a Request for Proposals on benchmarking our support units to understand better our staffing model. We are also re-examining our list of peer institutions and aspirant institutions. Those lists will be shared with the Faculty and Staff senates and SGA. The peer schools should reflect our student body makeup and size, as well as mission. Our aspirant institutions go a step further in that they should reflect the outcomes (e.g., graduation and retention rates, student successes, etc.) that we hope to achieve.

Saturday's off-campus party. Unfortunately, there was a very large party involving hundreds of people last Saturday night on Wood Street. This resulted in a number of complaints and negative media attention, but it also could have resulted in something much more serious in terms of the hazards presented to the participants, the people who live in the neighborhood, and Frostburg's first-responder community, which was stretched thin by the size of the crowd. We heard from residents who were fearful that evening, and that is unacceptable.

I hear student concerns about safety off campus, and we have been working with city officials and city businesses to address these concerns, but events like the one last Saturday only serve to set back those efforts, as well as the goodwill and connections we have been trying to build between the University community and the city. As you can tell, I am disappointed by last Saturday's event, and I am meeting with Student Affairs to determine next steps. Enough said.

Good news. At the Board of Regents meeting last week, the Chancellor mentioned the upcoming accreditation visit for our newly proposed Physician Assistant's program and that FSU was ranked No. 40 for Public Schools in the Northeast Region by U.S. News and World Report. As you can see on our [web site](#), a number of individual programs have also been ranked by U.S. News.

We also hosted a visit by Mr. Tim Thomas, the National Co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Mr. Thomas serves as the director of the ARC, a federal agency that serves the 13 states in the Appalachian region. ARC has funded a number of grants to FSU over the years, and officials were on campus to learn more about FSU. He and his staff were very complimentary of our regional efforts and shared some thoughts on future funding opportunities. I'll be getting together with the Provost and VP for Regional Development and Engagement to discuss how best to bring faculty together to talk about these funding opportunities.

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