Good afternoon,

Here is an update on some things going on across campus.

Legislative Testimony. Every two years, FSU appears before the subcommittees of the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate to provide an update about the university. Our turn is this Thursday afternoon. Along with VPs Delia and Wyden, I'll be presenting our testimony at 1 p.m. to a Senate subcommittee, followed immediately afterwards before a House subcommittee. You can watch here. Look for the red "Live" button at on the right side under "Committee Meetings.) A copy of the testimony will be posted on our website that morning for everyone to read. (Past testimonies can be found at this link, too). We have many positive things to talk about as we continue to address other items that are in our strategic plan.

PAWS Pantry. The PAWS pantry is up and running in the Braddock House for students in need. The pantry had a very successful open house last Friday. Thanks to everyone who helped establish this resource on campus. Students who want to use the pantry's services may contact Melanie Hutter at mlhutter@frostburg.edu. A few weeks back, CBS ran a story on the difficulties many students are facing as they work toward completing their education (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homelessness-on-campus-the-toughest-test-faced-by-tens-of-thousands-of-college-students-in-america/). Remember there are resources here to help! Reach out to faculty and staff; we want you to succeed.

Student Surveys. In the coming weeks, emails will be going out to students asking them to complete brief surveys on a variety of topics. I ask that if you get a request to complete a survey, please take the time to provide your input. The students' thoughts and opinions help shape a number of actions we take. For example, decisions we have made regarding alcohol at functions on campus for students over 21, as well as the purchase of the Pacifica app for students were driven in part by student responses on the Maryland College Alcohol Survey (coming out this weekend) as well as the American College Health Assessment, scheduled in April. An important national survey, the NSSE, is given to a sample of first-year and fourth-year students. The results in the past have given us a snapshot of what students value in and out of the classroom. Lastly, an advising survey coming out later this semester is going to be very important as we improve the advising experience. Without meaningful student input, we are often left to guess at what we believe is happening on campus. So, please help us out with those surveys. We use the results!

City of Frostburg. Thanks to SGA leadership for working with the City of Frostburg to revitalize the committee that focuses on town-gown relationships. I met with the Mayor this past week and he is glad that this work is going forward. As an FSU alum, he is proud of the student leadership on campus.

Harry Potter Night. There seems to a lot of thanks to go around! Thanks to all of our students, faculty and staff who volunteered their time last Friday night for a magical Harry Potter night. Unless you attend this event, you miss the wonderment in so many children's eyes as they are transported back to Hogwarts School to learn magic and play Quidditch. I suspect there are still some kids hiding on the fourth floor of the library! Thanks to all!

Frostburg State University 101 Braddock Road Frostburg, MD 21532-2303

Voice: 301.687.4111 Fax: 301.687.7070



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