

Good Afternoon,

Here's my update as we approach the beginning of the spring semester:

**Government Shutdown & Financial Implications.** I have asked VP Arlene Cash to monitor the potential impact of the government shutdown on student financial aid or other needs of students from families where the government shutdown is having an effect. If you are in a situation where the shutdown is adversely affecting you or your family, please reach out to the appropriate campus office or VP Cash's office at [acash@frostburg.edu](mailto:acash@frostburg.edu) to alert us to your needs. We are here to help.

**Budget Hearings.** This continues to be a good year fiscally for the state of Maryland. In past years, we had early reports of budget shortfalls, etc. This year everything seems to be on target. Frostburg State is required to present testimony before both the House of Delegates and the Senate on a biannual basis. This is our year to make a presentation. The budget presentations will be on the afternoon of February 14. I'll provide more details about the presentation in early February.

**Resource Allocations.** The strategic plan called for us to look at our salary gaps and the allocation of resources. We continue to do both. The committee looking at the faculty salary gaps has collected some preliminary data and continues to investigate the gap as described by the system office. The university has contracted with Sibson Consulting, which specializes in working with higher education institutions, to look at our support services this semester to help us align our services in an efficient and effective way. They will be seeking input from many campus sectors in their time with us. Their report should be to us by late spring.

**Athletics.** This is the week of the NCAA annual convention. We are nearing the completion of our application for Division II membership. We have had discussions with our system leadership and the faculty and staff senates about the process. If all goes well, we will submit our application prior to the February 1 deadline. The NCAA will make a site visit sometime in the spring and we will hear a final decision from the NCAA this summer. Unlike other application processes, this process is a fluid one where we may be asked to provide updates and explanations to the NCAA throughout the process. I will ask the Athletics Department to schedule open briefings and updates to the campus throughout the spring.

**MLK Day.** Thanks to FSU's Lisa Clark and A STAR! In Western Maryland for helping FSU make our communities better on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Check it out: <https://www.localdvm.com/news/i-270/despite-cold-community-gathers-for-annual-mlk-day-of-service/1714149064>

Lastly, while it is cold in Frostburg, we are looking forward to return of the students later this week. The weather will warm up, at least a bit! I hope everyone traveling back to campus has a safe trip

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