

March 28, 2019

Good morning,

Welcome back to those who were able to get away from campus during the spring break. Here's an update on a few items:

Strategic planning workshop. Thank you to the faculty and staff who attended the strategic planning review session just before spring break. We received a number of comments and suggestions based on the progress reports of each of our 12 action items. As soon as it is ready, a summary of the results of the workshop will be shared with the university community on the strategic planning [website](#).

Academic Advising Survey. Thanks to everyone who is taking the time to complete the Academic Advising Survey. The greater the participation rate, the greater confidence we will have in the survey results. This survey is part of our 2-year national project to examine and improve our student academic advising processes on campus.

University Council on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Working with the University Advisory Council, I have revamped what was known as the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The new Council has been expanded in membership to include a greater number of students as well as staff and faculty from several campus offices. Membership on this Council more closely resembles best practices nationally. Professor Jennifer Earles and Center for Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Robin Wynder have agreed to co-chair the Council. A number of the Council members, including students, are attending the AAC&U Conference on Diversity, Inclusion and Student Success in Pittsburgh this week. This Council will be tasked with developing proposals for the repurposing of the old police building on campus.

Campus meetings. I continue to meet with university departments across campus. I have met with nine departments so far and have another three scheduled later this week. I thank those that have attended for their comments and openness about issues of concern to them. We have covered a variety of topics, and I am taking notes on these concerns as well as opportunities that people see. Several items have already been passed on for action.

Athletics. The onsite consultant for the NCAA review team visited campus yesterday. She met with faculty, staff, coaches, and students. She was favorably impressed with our campus and athletic operations. The next step will be for us to do one more final update to our application (early June) and then await the NCAA decision in mid-July.

Annapolis. I met with five legislative committees in Annapolis over the past several weeks, in addition to FSU hosting its biannual reception for state legislators. I can report that all of the meetings went well and that FSU is viewed favorably by Maryland legislators. One of the highlights was spending some time with two FSU alums from the class of 2000, Sen. Antonio Hayes and Del. Tony Bridges, both representing citizens of Baltimore City. We are sending them some Frostburg "swag" for their offices!

President Emerita Catherine Gira. As was reported last evening, President Emerita Gira passed away on Tuesday. Catherine was one of the longer serving presidents of FSU, from 1991 to 2006. She stayed in touch with FSU and usually made at least one visit each year to campus to visit with friends and colleagues. She will be missed. We will have more information about memorial arrangements as they become available.

Enjoy the weekend. It looks like we will finally experience spring!

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