

Oct. 14, 2020

Good afternoon,

As the semester continues, I encourage the campus community to take some time to get outside and enjoy our beautiful surroundings, especially at this time of year. We all need to hit the “pause” button from time to time.

Here are some updates.

2020 Election: On Wednesday, Oct. 7, the Faculty Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve a resolution to make it easier for our students to participate in the upcoming election through voting or serving as an election judge.

Here is the full text of the resolution:

Whereas the FSU Faculty recognize the importance of fair and free elections with high participation as part of the democratic process; and

Whereas Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 is both Election Day and a scheduled class day for the Fall 2020 academic calendar, now, therefore be it

Resolved, that instructors are encouraged to make it easier for their students to perform their civic duty through voting or working as election judges by taking one or more of the following actions as is reasonable for their course(s):

- Being flexible with students regarding attendance and due dates on Nov. 3, 2020;
- Considering alternative assignments instead of a scheduled class meeting on Nov. 3, 2020;
- Holding class meetings virtually instead of in person on Nov. 3, 2020; or
- Avoiding major assignments, exams, presentations, etc. on Nov. 3, 2020.

I support this action, and I join the Faculty Senate in urging you to please be supportive of your students who wish to perform their civic duty.

The Office of Civic Engagement has pulled together a valuable resource of information about voting in Maryland at www.frostburg.edu/bobcatsvote. There is also a link to [TurboVote](#) for residents of other states to find similar information. Please make a plan to exercise your right to vote in this election.

Performances: I want to commend our performing arts departments, the Provost and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for their work in coming up with a way to balance the need for safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic with the needs of our students in the performing arts to practice their craft. Together with the Guests on Campus working group, they adapted

the COVID-19 guidance for [Fall 2020 meetings and events](#) to create a framework for performances. Audience sizes are limited, and attendees come from our campus community only. The Department of Music has already had some events, which are also available to view virtually, and more are in the works. Their lineup can be seen at www.frostburg.edu/concerts. And the Department of Theatre and Dance will perform "[Charlotte's Web](#)" beginning next Thursday through Saturday. Please take the opportunity to support them if you can.

Cluster Testing: We have revised our language for our COVID-19 surveillance testing program to better describe our procedures. While we continue to test a stratified random sample of the campus community every two weeks, but select groups, following the pattern of athletics, will be tested at a higher percentage. For example, actors in the Department of Theatre and Dance who have been preparing for their first performance, were added to yesterday's testing population. When you see "surveillance/cluster testing" in messages, this is the practice it is describing.

Brady Health Protocol: The [Brady Health Center](#) continues to see student patients, but I want to remind you how the pandemic has revised their practices. [Appointments](#) are required; no walk-in patients can be seen. If you think you may be showing symptoms of the coronavirus, you need to call first at 301-687-4310 to be evaluated. The nurses on staff will evaluate your symptoms and determine if you should be tested, or potentially, if your symptoms are serious enough that you should go to an Urgent Care center or the emergency room. Other serious conditions will also be referred to Urgent Care or an ER, as Brady Health is an ambulatory health center, equipped for minor illnesses and injuries, not an Urgent Care center.

Messages from the Provost: We realized that a great deal of important information has been shared by email from the Provost for students and faculty. These messages have been collected for review at [this link](#). Click on the box that says "Provost Office Communications."

Please continue to stay safe and be kind,

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
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You may also seek assistance by contacting:

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