

Feb. 17, 2021

Good afternoon,

Here are some updates for this week:

“Staycation” Week: When we made the decision to not have a regular spring break to prevent travel-related spread of the coronavirus, we wanted to be sure to provide some kind of mid-term respite. “Staycation” will now take place during what would have been spring break, March 15 to 19, and includes Wednesday, March 17, as a designated non-instructional day. Events are being scheduled that students, faculty and staff can enjoy. Look for an official schedule to be posted soon.

Federal Stimulus Funds: We have processed 1,167 awards for the \$375 in housing funds provided through the CARES Act. There are several hundred more that are still being processed, in part because of changes in last fall’s criteria from the Department of Education. We hope to have these complete by the end of next week.

More funding is on the way from the second stimulus bill passed late last year, although we have not yet received those funds. It will include more direct student assistance, offering emergency awards like we had last spring. However, guidelines are different, with the funds being available for more uses, but with stricter criteria from the Department of Education for students to qualify. We will let students know how to apply as soon as the funding is received.

In the meantime, if you haven’t already, I recommend you complete the [FAFSA form](#) (FSU code 002072) and the [FSU Online Scholarship Application](#). The deadline for these forms is March 1.

Military Friendly: I am pleased to announce that FSU has been named a Military Friendly School for the 10th time in a row. Our service members and veterans deserve the best from us. They enrich our campus community with their experience and commitment. I want to express my gratitude for those among our community who go above and beyond to serve these students.

Value Proposition Project: Watch your email in the coming weeks for a survey about what Frostburg State University means to each of you. It’s part of our value proposition project. We’re collecting input from students and employees, along with alumni, community members, prospective students and many others to help the university create messaging to help attract new students as we move forward. Find out more about the project at [this link](#).

Virtual Coffees: We are continuing our virtual coffees every other week, one for students and one for faculty and staff. These are good opportunities to pose questions and let us know your concerns. If you are unable to attend at the scheduled time, they are posted at [this link](#), usually by the next day.

Stay Vigilant: Positivity rates for the coronavirus have been declining locally, but please don’t allow this good news to lessen your vigilance regarding our community’s health and safety. We’re past the period of holiday gatherings, which contributed to much of the earlier spread, yet the vaccine roll-out is still slow. Our own behaviors are the best protection right now:

- If you are on campus, test twice a week, every week.
- Wear your mask, and wear it properly.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

- Avoid crowds and any unmasked gatherings with people outside your household.

Stay safe and stay warm!

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
President

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

(v) 301.687.4111 ; (f) 301.687.7070

You may also seek assistance by contacting:

Donnell H. VanSkiver, CAP, MEP, OM
Executive Administrative Assistant

Email: dhvanskiver@frostburg.edu



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