

Feb. 24, 2021

Good afternoon,

Here are some updates for this week:

“Staycation” Week: “Staycation” from March 15 to 21 — including the non-instructional day of Wednesday, March 17 — now has a [website](#) listing activities. Visit it for the most up-to-date information on events and activities for that week as plans come together. Already in the works are a Poetry Night, Mega Bingo Night, a student showcase and a fireworks show.

More Emergency Assistance Funding: Watch for an email later this week about additional CARES Act monies that have become available for our students. It will include the requirements as well as a link to complete an application. Additionally, most spring 2021 housing awards have been issued. If you didn’t receive an award, are eligible (you must qualify for federal financial aid) and have not submitted your application, the deadline to submit is March 1. Apply for housing funds at [this link](#). I also recommend all students complete the [FAFSA form](#) (FSU code 002072) and the [FSU Online Scholarship Application](#) before March 1.

Legislative Testimony: This Friday, Feb. 26, I will be providing virtual testimony about Frostburg State University during a combined hearing before the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and the Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. We provide testimony in support of our operating budget during the General Assembly session every other year. If you would like to watch, the hearing is scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m. and can be viewed at [this link](#) (Senate) or [this link](#) (House).

Vaccines: I want to thank our faculty, staff and student employees for responding to the Vaccination Interest Survey last week. The response rate was more 80 percent, with more than 90 percent indicating their interest in being vaccinated. Unfortunately, as we have not yet received vaccines, completing this form DOES NOT create an appointment to be vaccinated, but it will allow us to contact you once vaccinations are available. We do not yet have a timeline for when this might happen.

Again, if you can qualify for a vaccine through another outlet, please take that opportunity. If you haven’t already, make sure to fill out the Allegany County Health Department/UPMC Western Maryland Vaccine Interest Form at [this link](#). The [state health department website](#) offers contacts with the local health department, Walgreens and Martin's Pharmacy for local vaccination sites. Follow local news reports as other opportunities arise, too.

Office Moves and Cost Savings: Effective today, the Center for International Education is now housed in Room 108 of Pullen Hall, vacating its space in the Fuller House. In the coming weeks, the University Honors program will move from the Fuller House to the Ort Library. This clears the way for the University Advancement offices of Alumni Programs and Development/FSU Foundation to move back to campus and into the Fuller House sometime in April, allowing the University to save \$87,000 year in rent and utilities paid for the Lyric Building. The site for the

Center for Literary Arts has yet to be determined. I will share more details as these moves progress.

Outdoor athletic events: We are developing the process and protocols to allow attendance at outdoor athletic events per NCAA, our conference and state guidelines regarding capacity, mask wearing and social distancing. FSU students will be a priority group in attending these events. FSU students will be required to present their University [check-in badge](#) and show evidence of a recent negative test in alignment with the university's twice-weekly testing requirement. Students who are not participating in testing consistently will be refused admission. Information for other spectators will be released in the near future as part of the full policy.

Stay Vigilant, Test and [Check-In](#): Our campus and regional positivity rates for the coronavirus continue to decline, but please maintain your vigilance regarding our community's health and safety. It's precisely because of healthy and safe actions and behaviors that declines are occurring, yet the vaccine roll-out is still slow. Remember:

- Wear your mask, and wear it properly.
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- Avoid crowds and any unmasked gatherings with people outside your household.
- If you are on campus, test twice a week, every week. This applies to all students and employees regularly on campus. (The protocol, instructions and exemptions are described at [this link](#).) Make testing twice each week part of your routine.
- Every day, monitor your symptoms and use the [Check-in Portal](#).

Shout-Out to Shovelers: I am always proud of the work and effort of our students. Over the past couple of weeks, a number of students, especially our Greek organizations, helped shovel walkways and fire hydrants throughout the city. Our community is noticing, and people are expressing their gratitude on social media (like [this](#), and [this](#)). I like to hear about your good work in the community! Please send me an email highlighting your efforts when they occur so you can be recognized.



Stay safe!

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You may also seek assistance by contacting:

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