

Here is the last President's update for November.

**Maryland Charity Campaign.** We are halfway through this year's Maryland Charity Campaign. I encourage everyone to consider joining me in helping our local charities. An email from co-chair, Professor Shakil Rahman was sent to the campus on November 2. Feel free to reach out to either co-chair, Professor Rahman or Ms. Crystal Miller, if you need more information. (<http://mcc.maryland.gov/>)

**Positive recognition.**

- FSU earned a **Silver Seal** from the ALL-IN Campus Democracy Challenge for nonpartisan student voter participation efforts in the 2020 Election.
- The Cumberland Times-News had several articles about FSU in their Wednesday edition, including an editorial about the contribution of higher education to this region. ([https://www.times-news.com/opinion/editorials/affordable-ed/article\\_e0699f4c-432a-11ec-8294-c3a403a05a3c.html](https://www.times-news.com/opinion/editorials/affordable-ed/article_e0699f4c-432a-11ec-8294-c3a403a05a3c.html)) You may also see a letter to the editor about difficulty in attending the Navy jazz concert this weekend. We have reached out to the author with an apology and have corrected the admission process.

**Weather closing policy.** You should anticipate the release of an updated weather closing policy before the end of November.

**Virtual Coffee Hours.** I held two virtual coffee hours, one with faculty and staff and one with students on Tuesday. There were concerns expressed that were not easy to address in that virtual format. Questions were not limited to, but included, telework policy, morale, SGA, PINs, and racism. For these topics, the virtual format does not provide the right venue for me to learn more about the community's concerns. I held an in-person listening session with students today. The suggestions and feelings expressed were welcome. I especially appreciated the thoughts on proactive steps I should implement both personally and as President. I will schedule listening sessions for faculty and staff. I will be available in the Atkinson Room on Tuesday, Nov. 23, from 9 to 10 a.m.; Monday, Nov. 29 from 3 to 4 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 2, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. If additional listening sessions are requested by any group, we will schedule them.

The executive cabinet met this morning to discuss several of these topics and what steps, in addition to those already under way, we should consider. One topic that we agreed upon was the opportunity for FSU to hold a series of discussions next semester on free speech and the tension that can occur when it conflicts with our values of civil discourse.

I will also clarify some of the questions regarding SGA. Several concerns regarding SGA were brought forward to the FSU administration. After careful consideration and discussion, the recommendation from Student Affairs was that further review was warranted. This review is not in response to any of the social media posts that were receiving attention over the past weeks.

**Campus-Community Discussion.** Last spring the local chapter of the NAACP and I agreed to hold semester meetings inviting the community to campus for a discussion on topics of interest. I apologize for what appears to be a misunderstanding in the scheduling of these meetings. We are going to hold two meetings on campus, inviting the community to meet with FSU cabinet members. Those meetings will be on Monday, Dec. 6, and Monday, May 2, both from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Gira CCIT 397.

**Forging Futures Campaign.** I am pleased to announce that since the Forging Futures campaign was announced in mid-September, we have raised over a half million dollars in contributions and pledges to bring our total to over \$16 million toward our goal of \$25 million.

Please have a relaxing and safe holiday with family and friends.

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