

Sept. 22, 2021

Good afternoon,

Here's my weekly update:

**More National Rankings.** We've been citing the good news from the Washington Monthly rankings regarding FSU. Here is what we have learned from the U.S. News & World Report's ranking of Regional Universities North, among similar universities in the northeast U.S.:

- FSU ranked **53rd** of 175 schools in the category of social mobility – those schools in which Pell Grant recipients had the best chance of graduating – and,
- **36th** among the 61 public institutions in the Regional North category.

**CARES Act funding.** The executive cabinet met this morning to review a plan for distributing CARES act funding to students. The plan is going to be shared with SGA before being implemented. We hope to get these funds distributed soon. We will do another distribution next semester as well. We estimate awarding more than \$5 million to students this academic year. Thank you for your patience as we work through the plan and the distribution of funds. We want to reach as many students as possible.

**ARC POWER Grant.** FSU was awarded a \$1.48 million grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission this past week. You can read about this [ARC POWER](#) grant, the first ever awarded to Maryland, at [this link](#). This grant will benefit our students, faculty and the region by providing opportunities for more collaboration and real-life applications of classroom learning.

**Some Sad News.** This has been a difficult week, as we have had two faculty members pass away. Professor Eyad Youssef, from the Department of Marketing and Finance, passed away on Saturday. Professor Youssef, who was the MBA coordinator, had been with FSU for five years and a wonderful and innovative colleague and teacher. Professor George Plitnik, from the Department of Physics and Engineering, passed away on Monday. He was a long-time faculty member starting his career here back in 1970, with a distinguished record of accomplishments in his study of acoustics, who was a “wizard” at teaching. We offer our condolences to their loved ones on the loss of these two friends and colleagues.

**COVID tests.** We continue to monitor the safety of our campus community members. Thank you to all who are vaccinated and those with authorized exemptions who are testing regularly. We are asking that if you take a virus test outside of campus, we would appreciate you uploading the results through our [COVID check-in portal](#) to help us better monitor the status of the campus. When you are in the portal, in the menu at the top right, click on My COVID19 Tests. Click the green button to upload your test result. The portal accepts many formats, including screen shots from your phone.

I hope the semester is going well. Please continue to be safe!

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