

Feb. 13, 2020

Good afternoon. Here is an update on several items:

**Diversity and Inclusion.** I was deeply distressed to see the video that appeared on social media last week from one of our students. However, the involvement of student leadership in addressing the incident has led to some very positive discussions. I want to remind you that the University Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (UCDEI) was revamped last year to create a council that has students as the majority membership. UCDEI is featuring a campus-wide conversation next Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. (See the invitation below for more information.) I hope to see many members of our university community there.

**Loss of Donesha Chew.** Last week was marred by the loss of Donesha Chew, a senior at FSU and an active student leader, in a tragic car accident. There will be a memorial service this evening at 7 p.m. in the ARMAH, preceded by a candlelight walk starting at the Bobcat statue. For anyone who needs someone to talk with, remember Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is an available resource (301-687-4234). I truly appreciate the outreach from her friends and several student groups, including SGA, NCNW, BSA, and Caribbean Students Association. She will be missed. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

**One-year anniversary of PAWS Pantry.** The PAWS pantry has been open for a year now. If you are a student in need of food assistance, please visit the FSU PAWS Pantry open Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can also contact Maddie Hutter, AmeriCorps PAWS Pantry Coordinator, at [PAWSPantry@frostburg.edu](mailto:PAWSPantry@frostburg.edu) for information.

**Faculty and staff pay increases.** The governor authorized a 1% COLA pay increase for qualifying university employees this January, and his budget calls for an additional 2% COLA for that group next January with the possibility of a one-time \$500 bonus, depending on state revenues. That budget is under review by the Maryland General Assembly during this legislative session, which concludes in early April. I'll be testifying later in March as part of our request for construction money for our Education and Health Sciences Building.

**Brownsville Memorial.** Thank you to VP Al Delia and the working group of faculty, staff, students, and community members who finalized the recommended wording for the Brownsville Memorial. I have approved their recommendations, and we are now in the process of getting the plaques made and preparing the site for the Brownsville Memorial on the Upper Quad. Once we know more about the timeline to complete the memorial, we will identify a date for the dedication. Our plans are to complete the process before the end of the spring semester.

**Opportunity Scholarships.** The Allegany County Local Development Council, which is involved in the allocation of Rocky Gap Casino revenues to the county government, recently recommended eliminating the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship funding to Frostburg State University and Allegany College of Maryland. These scholarships to Allegany County residents benefited more than 180 students at FSU this year. The President of ACM and I, along with others from ACM and VPs Al Delia and John Short, have met with our local elected officials to protest this recommendation. An [editorial](#) opposing this decision was published in today's Cumberland Times-News, and we are actively working to express the harm this decision would have on our students and residents of Allegany County. We are advocating to have the recommendation reversed. I'll keep the campus community updated on our actions and the results.

I hope the nice weather continues and the semester progresses well for everyone. Our spring sports teams are geared up for action, including women's and men's basketball in the renovated arena. There are also several cultural events coming up at the end of the month and in early March. More on those in the next update!

The University Council on  
Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion Presents:

# Can We Talk?

We invite the FSU campus community - students, faculty, and staff - to join us for a series of campus conversations. With these forums, we intend to establish S.M.A.R.T. goals or Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, and Time-related goals aimed at fostering a campus climate in which we can learn... live... play...work...and celebrate our diverse community and campus.

*For more info you can  
contact the UCDEI Council  
at: [ucdei@frostburg.edu](mailto:ucdei@frostburg.edu)*

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY  
18TH, 2020  
@ 7:00 PM IN THE  
ARMAH**

YOUR VOICE MATTERS. YOUR  
ACTION IS NEEDED.

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