

Nov. 3, 2021

Good afternoon,

Here are a few updates:

State of the University. The videos continue from our VPs on the State of the University. This week we have a presentation from Interim Provost Mathias. You can see the video at [this link](#).

Legislative Visits. This past week we had **Mr. Keiffer Mitchell, Jr.**, Senior Counselor & Chief Legislative Officer to Gov. Larry Hogan, on campus. He is visiting all of the USM campuses and began his visits at FSU. We had a chance to brief him on some of our capital and operating fiscal needs. He also took a tour of campus with several students. He enjoyed the opportunity to talk with students as he walked the campus. **U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen** was on campus Friday afternoon. He spent nearly an hour with a group of students, briefing them on Congressional issues and answering their questions (see photo below). It was a wide-ranging discussion. Sen. Van Hollen then visited our Innovation Park and met with several business and economic development leaders.



Residence Hall Visits. Thanks to Don Swogger for organizing a series of evening visits to several residence halls. I have enjoyed the conversations and have been taking note of areas of interest to the students who stop by. I plan to continue the visits, perhaps as focus groups, in the spring semester.

Bobcats on and off Broadway. Congrats to several of our alums who are making a major impact in New York theatre. Read about them at [this link](#). A number of students and faculty had a chance this past weekend to meet **Keenan Scott II** and attend his play, which opened last month on Broadway. He wrote the first draft as a Frostburg undergrad. **Hear his inspiring and heart-warming message to the students at [this link](#).**

Art Exhibit. We have a new art exhibit, [Pleasant Terminal](#), opening this Friday featuring work from three of our newest faculty members, **Ash Lester**, **Alena Mehić** and **April Wright**. The reception, which is open to all, is this Friday evening from 7 until 9 p.m.

Athletics. We have an exciting few weeks ahead.

- As the fall sports teams are reaching the end of their regular competition, we have several teams that are in the hunt for conference championships.
- Next Thursday, Nov. 11, our football game will be televised on Mid-Atlantic Sports Network (MASN) at 7 p.m. We will be honoring our veterans in attendance in recognition of Veterans Day. We hope to have a special guest for the coin flip.
- Our women's soccer team, ranked first in their division, will host a conference playoff game on Nov. 12.
- We may have additional teams reaching playoffs.

Please come out to support our student-athletes.

Another ranking! In a new report from *the Chronicle of Higher Education* ("Recruiting and Retaining Students in a Challenging Market"), which listed the highest graduation rates of Black students among public master's universities nationwide, Frostburg came in 24th and was the only Maryland university to make the top 25 list. I would like to see us set a goal to be in the top 10 on this list by improving our graduation for that group by at least 9 percentage points.

Students, it's time to register for the 2022 winter and spring sessions. Please check in with your advisors and get registered.

Please continue to be safe.

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