

April 21, 2020

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share the results of the recent campus survey, offer some options for some issues that were raised in it, and provide some other updates.

Attached is a file with the quantitative survey. Some immediate observations indicate that most faculty and staff report adapting well to the transition in how we are doing business right now, but of the 551 students who responded, more than half say they are not adapting well. Faculty perception on students' ability to adapt to the change in instruction does not match what the students reported, but only about a 10th of the student body responded to the survey, so that may be why. On the positive side, technology is not a barrier for most respondents. For those who did report issues, the difficulty was most often with internet access.

There are some significant barriers, however, especially among students with full-time work and/or family commitments. There were some underlying threads in the comments. For faculty, there is a recognition that 1) things take longer online and 2) many students have additional competing responsibilities because of the crisis. For students, the multiple course workload on online is greater than face-to-face and deadlines are often hard to meet.

With these issues in mind, I offer some resources.

For students:

- Students who are uncertain about the options of Pass for Credit/No Credit, Withdrawal, or requesting an Incomplete should contact their academic advisors (for PC/NC or Withdraw) or faculty member (for Incomplete). Financial Aid recipients should verify with Financial Aid ([fsuфинаid@frostburg.edu](mailto:fsuфинаid@frostburg.edu), 301-687-4301) and those who receive Veterans benefits check with Veterans Services ([vets@frostburg.edu](mailto:vets@frostburg.edu), 301-687-4509) to ensure that these decisions do not impact your eligibility.
- Students who are struggling with issues of anxiety, stress, depression or feeling overwhelmed are urged to contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 301-687-4234. Counselors are connecting via telepsychology – via phone or video.
- Students who are having difficulty with issues of motivation or focus, dealing with lack of structure, are looking for tutoring, or have other issues with managing the transition from on-campus studies should contact Mark Smith, director of the Tutoring Center, at [msmith@frostburg.edu](mailto:msmith@frostburg.edu). Additional information and instructions about online tutoring are available [here](#).
- Students who are not receiving communication from their faculty members should contact the chairs of their [departments](#). Click on your department name and then the “Faculty and Staff” link in the left navigation.
- Students with emergency financial needs should apply to the Student Affairs Crisis Emergency Fund at [this link](#). Students with concerns about paying next year's expenses are encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid at [fsuфинаid@frostburg.edu](mailto:fsuфинаid@frostburg.edu) or 301-687-4301.

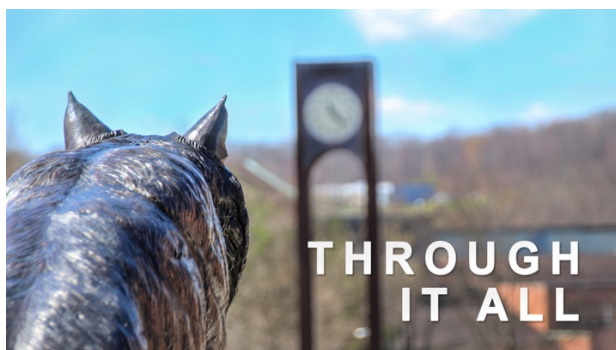
## For Faculty and Staff

- Those are having concerns about their students – i.e. non-responsiveness, a dramatic drop in class participation or success – should utilize [BEACON](#) to help connect students with resources.
- Faculty and staff who need assistance with transitioning online should review the resources at [this link](#). The Helpdesk is also available at 301-687-7777, [helpdesk@frostburg.edu](mailto:helpdesk@frostburg.edu) or [online](#).
- The Staff Senate is providing an online communication link at <https://forms.frostburg.edu/172> for staff members wishing to share concerns, issues and opinions.

## A couple of other updates:

- Regarding the CARES Act Funding, the federal government has allocated approximately \$3.9 million to help FSU during this crisis. Of that, half, a little over \$1.96 million will be distributed to students based on guidance from the Department of Education. We have a working group of several VPs and two student leaders from SGA developing the process for us. The funds have not been sent to us yet. We are in the early stages regarding these funds and will describe the process as soon as we can. The other \$1.96 million will go toward covering transitional costs as a result of this crisis.
- There were several questions from SGA senators last week about plans for the fall semester. Currently, we hope to be face-to-face, perhaps with social distancing requirements. However, we recognize we may need the alternatives for some or all of the fall semester depending on the governor's guidelines. Medical experts are hoping we do not have a repeat of the 1918 pandemic flu when there was a "second wave" of the virus in the fall.

Finally, I invite you to watch this brief [video](#) and remember, we will be Bobcats through it all.



Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD  
President  
Frostburg State University  
101 Braddock Road  
Frostburg, MD 21532-2303  
Voice: 301.687.4111  
Fax: 301.687.7070



*One University. A World of Experiences.*