

Aug. 1, 2019

Good afternoon,

Here's an update as we begin August with the start of fall term only a few weeks away.

Enrollment. We continue to focus on our retention numbers and recruitment of new students. At this point, the number of incoming students is down, primarily in transfer students. I've had discussions with other university presidents in the System, and others are seeing a drop as well. We don't know if it is the good economy that is resulting in community college students securing jobs without finishing their AA degrees or going to get their bachelor's degree or if it is fewer community college students in general. We are analyzing the trends by high school and community colleges.

We have the official Summer Session enrollments, and we saw a dramatic increase in student enrollment. Our summer FTE this year was 790, compared with 638 last year, a 23% increase. The increase was at both the undergraduate and master's levels. Part of the increase is the result of the new physician assistant program that began in May.

Budget. I am pleased to tell you that the preliminary budget analysis for the past year looks like we were in the black. We are using some of the funds to cover bonds for the new residence hall and doing a bit more work on deferred maintenance on campus. We had a visit this summer by Ellen Herbst, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance from the System. VP Leon Wyden gave her a tour of campus and outlined our plans and needs for improving the physical aspects of campus, both exterior and interior.

Advancement. Congratulations to the Advancement Team and our Foundation Board for exceeding our fundraising goal this past year. We had a goal of \$3 million and contributions were nearly \$3.6 million. This is the highest annual total in the history of FSU and includes a large, unrestricted estate gift of nearly \$1.5 million. Read more about that donor [here](#).

Planning Session. We had a half-day planning session in mid-July with the Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness Council, University Advisory Council and academic deans. The session included a review of progress on strategic planning action items, assessment activities, and budget. A couple of takeaways were continued communication on the strategic planning progress and a better understanding of our marketing and brand and its impact on enrollment. You'll hear more on this at the **State of the University** address planned for **Wednesday Sept. 4 at 3:30 pm**.

New Construction. I've attached a photo of our new residence hall. The weather this summer has been very cooperative and we are making very good progress. Construction is beginning on the top floor.



I recently testified at a state hearing on the new Education and Health Sciences Building. We have a request in for the first full year of construction funding. The schedule is to complete design by late winter 2020 and begin construction in spring 2020. The construction and outfitting of the building will take approximately 2 years.

Enjoy the remaining weeks before the start of the fall semester!

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