

Nov. 21, 2019

Good morning,

As we approach the Thanksgiving break, I want to wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday. Here is a brief update on several items.

Communications. I continue to remain committed to transparency and open communication on campus. I believe in the adage that one cannot communicate enough. For example, the minutes of the University Advisory Council (UAC) are posted [here](#) after each meeting. I view the Faculty and Staff Senates and Student Government Association as partners in shared governance and shared communications. When I met with both the Faculty and Staff senates, I asked the respective senators to communicate with their constituencies on a regular basis.

Additionally, when individuals approach me individually about their concerns, I also encourage them to contact their respective governance body as their concern may be shared by others. (Learn more, including contact information, about Faculty Senate [here](#), Staff Senate [here](#), and SGA [here](#).) We are more effective as an institution when we work together and share information. I will also continue my regular updates, such as this one, and our Vice Presidents will continue to contribute to these regular updates periodically.

Police Station. We have a request from the City of Frostburg to temporarily locate the Frostburg City Police operations in our old Public Safety Building on University Drive while their building undergoes an extensive renovation. This was a topic at UAC in October, and the consensus was that if we were to allow the city to use this building, we should make it an opportunity for the Frostburg city police officers to get to know our students better through interactions such as occasional breakfasts, lunches and events coordinated with our campus police. This will help in building better and stronger relations among our students and the campus and local law enforcement officers. To be clear, city police will not be patrolling campus – that is still the jurisdiction of University Police. As in the past, the two police agencies can call upon one another as needed, but the original jurisdictions will not change. Also, while the city police are using the building, the designing and planning process will move forward to convert the building, also known as the Lincoln School, into a multicultural center for campus and the community.

Construction. People have been asking about the “final look” of the new Residence Hall. I’ve attached an artist’s rendering of it. Much of what you see on the exterior right now is an exterior wrap. The first floor will be brick along with the elevator shafts — and the rest of the building’s exterior will be a maintenance-free composite. It is scheduled to be open to students next fall.



Regarding the Education and Health Sciences Building, we are talking with the Governor's office to find a date in early spring when Governor Hogan can be on campus to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new building. The construction drawings are being finalized, along with the bidding process for the early phases of construction.

End of the Semester. We will be in the "home stretch" of the semester once we return from the Thanksgiving holiday. I encourage all students to access the many university resources to help you manage the demands you have for your time. Certainly, discuss academic issues and concerns with your instructors and faculty advisors. Also, know that there are individuals to assist you in the offices in Pullen ([CAAR](#), [PASS](#), [Tutoring Center](#), etc.) and [Counseling & Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) in Cumberland Hall. We are here to help!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break and, if you are traveling next week, with safe travels home and back to campus.

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