

July 14, 2021

Good Morning,

I hope your summer is going well. There is much going on at the university. Here is an update on several items:

VP Searches. Three candidates for the **Vice President for Administration and Finance** have been selected and invited to interview on campus over the coming weeks. I hope to have feedback from the search committee, chaired by Regional Development and Engagement VP Al Delia and including faculty, staff and student members, by the end of the month. Student Affairs VP Artie Travis and Faculty Senate Chair John Lombardi have agreed to co-chair the search for the **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**. Our search consultants from Academic Search will be meeting with the co-chairs first and then the search committee (with faculty, staff and student members) to finalize the process and timeline. The plan is for the search and interviews to occur during the fall semester with a start date as soon as February 1, but no later than July 1, 2022. The faculty members for the committee have been selected by the Faculty Senate and I am in the process of completing committee membership this week.

Federal Aid to Students. We have a plan in place to provide another round of federal assistance to our new and continuing students through Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)/American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. Student “unmet need” and “expected family contribution” are two factors that will be used, along with federal guidelines, to make these awards. Letters and awards to registered, continuing students will be going out shortly. Letters to families of incoming students will describe the process for awards but no awards will be made to incoming students until the census date in September to conform with federal policy and regulations.

Fall Semester. Thank you to those employees who participated in last week’s virtual coffee hour and/or Monday’s faculty feedback session. I will be hosting a session for students today at 3 p.m. ([students can access it at this link](#)). I am working with the reopening and recovery team and others on campus to provide additional answers to questions raised at the events. Look for the first set of responses later this week or early next week with a follow-up on some of the questions that may require some additional research. Several, if not many, of the questions posed are being raised and debated across colleges and universities across the nation. As has been the case for the past 18 months, the environment changes and our knowledge base continue to evolve. The main driving principles in our decision-making process are to provide a safe residential campus environment and to follow the available scientific advice in making those decisions.

The rationale for using the August 1 date for everyone to provide evidence of compliance ([either uploading vaccination information or filing an exemption request](#)) is based on knowing that it takes two full weeks to be fully vaccinated after receiving the last shot. That would give us an August 15 date to ensure full vaccination. While we won’t start classes until August 30, increased activity on campus for fall will begin on August 16. Visit www.frostburg.edu/COVID19 for updated information.

Campus Facilities Reminder. We continue to use the summer to renovate and freshen parts of our physical campus. We are renovating the entrance floor of the library. New LED lighting has been installed. Working with library and facilities staff, space on the main floor of the library will be converted to collaborative workspace for students. The honors office has also been moved to the library. We will also be replacing some sidewalks on campus and the roof of Gunter Hall.

I hope everyone continues to be safe,

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