March 20, 2020

Good afternoon,

I had a good video-conferenced conversation with several student leaders this morning (see photo). They raised a number of questions and concerns and offered ideas, some we had not considered. Among the questions raised were the time needed to pack up residence hall rooms, how various honors and awards ceremonies might be handled, and extending the deadline for returning rental books, among others. We will work on answering those questions in the coming days.

Here are a few announcements for the campus community:

- **SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR MARCH 25**: Wednesday, March 25, has been designated an online learning preparation day for faculty, instructional staff and students. No classes will be held that day. Faculty are expected to take that time to work on further restructuring their classes and seek out solutions for the challenges they have encountered. Students are encouraged to test their technology on this day and respond to questions from their faculty.

- **RENTAL TEXTBOOKS**: The deadline for the return of textbook rentals has been extended until further notice, delaying any late or replacement fees. Students may mail their books back to the University Store if they wish to: The University Store, ATTN: RETURNS, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532. Please include your student ID number inside the package to ensure the rental book gets properly removed from your account.

- **SPRING BREAK TRAVELERS WARNING**: Gov. Hogan issued the following statement today: “We are asking all returning spring break travelers to self-quarantine for the next 14 days, and to avoid people over the age of 60. Even though students are not returning to campus, this should not in any way be treated as an extension of your spring break. If you ignore this recommendation, you are endangering yourself and the health of others.” We expect our students to follow the governor’s recommendation. Residence Hall students who are self-quarantining following travel will be accommodated with a move-out time after that period.

- **STUDENT EMPLOYEES**: FSU’s preference is that student employees telework where possible. Students with permission from Student Affairs to be on campus must consult with their supervisors for any exceptions to teleworking. More information for work-study students will be shared next week.

- **CAPS VIA TELEHEALTH**: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) will continue to provide individual counseling services to students via a telehealth model (video conferencing or phone appointments) during the hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please contact us at 301-687-4234 to make arrangements for services. Crisis services are also available by calling University police at 301-687-4223. However, if you are in immediate need of attention and not in the Frostburg area, it may be more beneficial to contact your local resources through 911. You may also consider these national hotlines:
- National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-8255
- Crisis Text Line: Text CONNECT to 741741
- The TREVOR Lifeline: 1-866-488-7386

- **BEING PREPARED**: The future continues to be unpredictable. I know many faculty and staff are now working full- or part-time from home. In the event the governor decides to close the university campuses, we will need to go to a different level of operation on campus to ensure the safety of campus and those students who remain on campus. If you have materials or items in your office that you would need at home, I suggest you visit your office to retrieve those items. This is entirely precautionary and an example of good planning.

I hope you all have a good weekend. Please be safe and supportive to your loved ones and neighbors.