

Good morning,

Welcome back for the Spring 2024 semester. I'm pleased to see the increased activity on campus and hope that the worst of the winter weather is behind us.

Al Delia will continue to serve as acting president for the immediate future. I've returned to campus on a limited basis following the winter holiday break.

My focus over the next several weeks will center on our strategic plan and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education self-study. The campus will receive a final report on the 2017-2023 strategic plan, and this report will also be available on our website.

As we move forward, our mission, vision and values play an essential role in developing our two strategic initiatives, 1) strategic enrollment and 2) campus culture and external messaging, that will shape our focus through December 2026. We will share the findings regarding the re-examination of our mission, vision and values through the intranet. These findings have already been shared with leadership from SGA, Staff Senate and Faculty Senate and will be discussed at an upcoming University Advisory Council meeting.

I am pleased to report that our self-study process continues to progress nicely under the leadership of our three co-chairs, Sara-Beth Bittinger, Sudhir Singh, and Sara Wilhelm, and the self-study steering committee and standards' co-chairs. We recently completed a self-study strengthening exercise to review our progress with an external consultant who complimented the team on its work and offered positive suggestions as we move forward. The self-study process should inform and guide the work of the teams on our two strategic initiatives.

Underlying all this, I encourage the campus community to stay attuned to the regional, state, and national challenges facing FSU and higher education. It is in the best interest of FSU that, as a community, we discuss and shape our future. It is clear to me that returning to the past is not the answer. I hope that we can be energized by the talent in this community and devote our efforts to working collaboratively to position FSU to be successful over the next decade and beyond.