

Good afternoon. I'd like to share an update on a few items with the campus community.

End of the Semester. First, I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday weekend. We are now into the final push of the fall semester. I recommend students check with their instructors if there are any questions about whether you are on track to finish the semester successfully. Resources are available to help you, but the first step is to check in with your instructors to complete your semester studies successfully. The Center for Academic Advising and Retention (CAAR) in Pullen is also a good resource. Second, if you have not registered for intersession or spring semester please do so. It will not only help you stay on track but also helps us in course planning. Watch for information from campus offices and organizations to help with end of the semester stressors. The Student Health Center and Student Counseling Center are available as well. Let's strive to have 100% successful Bobcats heading home for the winter holidays.

Graduation. Our fall graduation is set for Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. There will be one ceremony for all graduates. We will award an honorary doctorate to one of our most distinguished alums, Don Hutchinson. Don Hutchinson '67 has had a very successful career in both the private and public sectors. He served as the youngest delegate to the Constitutional Convention of Maryland, Maryland State Delegate, Maryland State Senator and County Executive of Baltimore County. Outside of his elected positions, he served as the President and CEO of the Maryland Zoo and SunTrust Bank. He also served as a member of many different groups, including the Board of Visitors of Towson State University, member of the Chesapeake Bay critical Area Commission, State Board of Education and the Governor's Commission on Efficiency and Economy in State Government, as well as the Chair of the Governor's Commission on School Funding, a member of the BWI Airport Commission and the Governor's Port Land-Use Task Force. His comments will be inspiring to our graduates and their families.

Looking to next year: Combining Homecoming and Family Weekend Oct 17-20. The Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Student Engagement are excited to announce that in 2024 they will partner to combine Homecoming and Family Weekend. This will allow the two areas to have a more targeted focus on all constituents - faculty, staff, retirees, students, families, alumni and friends of the University. In addition, it will ease the strain on resources (financial, personnel and facilities). They will reach out to campus departments to meet in the coming weeks. If you have any questions at this time, please contact Shannon Gribble at sgribble@frostburg.edu and Robert Cooper rncooper@frostburg.edu.

Update on Strategic Planning. Look for a final report on the web as we wrap up the FSU Strategic Plan 2018-2023. The two subsequent initiatives on enrollment and campus environment/external messaging are moving along. The University Advisory Council reviewed the findings from the open sessions in October, and we will continue to seek additional input as we define strategic actions and outcomes for those two initiatives. The goal is to have a completed document to campus before the end of the spring 2024 semester. A small group of

representatives from the faculty and staff senates and SGA will take the first shot at developing ideas regarding campus environment.

My Personal Thank You. Thank you to those that have reached out to me. I can report I am feeling well and plan to be in the office on Monday mornings during December. Everything is progressing well medically. I want to thank Al Delia and the rest of the executive cabinet as well as the campus staff and faculty in general for keeping things running. It is a testament to everyone's commitment to our mission and our students. Thanks again.