

Here are a few updates as we prepare for **Parents & Family Weekend** this weekend and **Homecoming** next weekend when we will have many alumni returning to campus.

**Budget Advisory Council (BAC).** Thank you to the individuals who came out yesterday for our BAC town forum. VP for Administration and Finance, Troy Donoway, Provost Traki L. Taylor, and Professor Michael Monahan discussed various aspects of our budget process and answered questions. We continue to see financial stressors impacting all levels of higher education nationally as colleges and universities respond to changes in society in terms of expectations and perceptions of higher education. We had a very good recruiting year last year and will continue to focus on recruiting. Equally important is retention and student success. I appreciate the efforts of the vice presidents and our governance units as we work to align our budget process with our goals. Our **open discussions**, scheduled in October, on mission/vision (including the survey announcement that went out yesterday), enrollment and campus culture will help us navigate the future.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Check out the latest library exhibit that highlights the Frostburg State College era for FSU. The Frostburg State College, 1963-1987 exhibit is located to the right of the Main Desk on the third floor. The exhibits will remain up through the fall semester.

**SGA Retreat.** Congrats to SGA on its retreat last Saturday at City Place. I had the opportunity to talk with the student leaders and hear about some of their plans for this year. I encourage students to get involved in SGA and other student organizations as a way to meet people, share their interests and develop and enhance the skills necessary to be a successful Bobcat.

**Bobcat Innovation Launchpad.** Thanks to everyone who helped make our inaugural Bobcat Innovation Launch Pad a success last weekend. The student, faculty and staff involvement are very much appreciated. Activities like this help our students in their educational and career journey and provide the opportunity to apply what is learned in the classroom.

**MSCHE Peer Evaluator.** I encourage faculty or staff that are involved in our self-study to consider serving as a MSCHE Peer Evaluator. The application process has just opened, and it is a fairly easy process. This is a valuable service to higher education. Here is some info from MSCHE:

*The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) is excited to share that the [application to become a peer evaluator](#) is now open! Peer evaluators are highly qualified experts who provide essential guidance to institutions and invaluable service to the Commission and the higher education community. Service as a peer evaluator offers many benefits, including the opportunity to enhance your knowledge and expertise in accreditation, learn about best practices from other institutions, build a network of higher education professionals, and strengthen the higher education community. Peer evaluators experience a variety of opportunities to engage in the Commission's review processes, including on-site team*

*evaluations, follow-up visits, or substantive changes. Peer evaluators receive a variety of training opportunities to prepare them for their roles, and Commission staff carefully analyze and select peer evaluators for assignments. Peer evaluators report this service as one of the most rewarding professional development opportunities available for higher education professionals. While the Commission is in need of peer evaluators with financial expertise, we welcome applications from anyone qualified and interested in becoming a peer evaluator. For additional information, please visit the [\*\*Peer Evaluator Page\*\*](#).*