

Good morning,

Mission and vision review. Thank you to the faculty and staff who joined me this past week to weigh in on a review of our mission, vision and core values. We received some great insights into those statements that I hope will inform the campus community. The findings from these sessions and the campus survey results will be shared on the university portal and with the University Advisory Council (UAC) which will be asked to get input from their respective constituencies. We'll then have further discussions on future drafts and modifications. We start focusing on our strategic initiatives next week. **I want to put out a specific invitation to our students to join us for these discussions.**

Conflict in the Middle East. I join with the Chancellor in praying and hoping for an end to the violence in the Middle East. You can find his statement [here](#). These conflicts are often based on long-standing animosities and prejudices. We can pray and hope that leaders are able to implement solutions rather than resorting to violence.

Self-Study. Work continues on our Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) self-study and I ask that the campus community continue to stay informed. As a Middle States Commissioner, I have learned that the challenges many schools are facing in their self-study fall into three areas: assessment, budgeting and planning. There is an expectation that assessment is leading to university improvements. Our open sessions this month are helping address our planning for the immediate and short-term future. Regarding budgeting, colleges and universities received additional federal funds during COVID. Many schools face challenges now that those funds are gone, and enrollments haven't yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. I've asked the Provost and VP for Administration and Finance to engage the Budget Advisory Council more often.

Board of Regents Retreat. I'm attending the annual USM Board of Regents retreat in College Park, where the main theme focuses on what it means for a school to be student-centered. We are also having a discussion on campus safety. I want to thank Rachael Michalski, SGA President, for participating in a student panel at the opening session on Wednesday evening. She represented FSU students extremely well.