

Good afternoon,

Here is an update on several items.

**Board of Regents Annual Retreat.** The BoR annual retreat was held last week in Adelphi. The main topic focused on understanding what “student centeredness” encompasses both at an institutional level and at the system level. The discussion began with a student panel that included our SGA President, Rachael Michalski, who did an excellent job participating with students from some of the other system schools. The retreat also included a discussion at breakfast on campus safety. The commitment from USM and the BoR was to continue the dialogue and look to best practices to enhance campus safety at all system institutions.

**WVSOM Signing.** As most should know, FSU has been adding partnerships with other schools to create career pathways for our FSU undergraduates. On Monday, I signed a partnership agreement with the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) to provide a seamless pathway for talented undergraduates interested in becoming Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine. Thanks to Dr. Karen Keller for spearheading this initiative. You can reach out to her to learn more about this opportunity.

**Passport Program.** The FSU “passport program” that recognizes events on campus as specially designated events of cultural or educational importance for our students is underway. You may see emails about these events. This is a pilot program that grew out of discussions with the University Advisory Council last spring.

**Strategic Planning Initiatives.** Thanks to all that have participated in the open sessions on our vision and mission and our strategic initiative to grow student enrollment. The last set of sessions are scheduled for next week when we will discuss campus culture and our message to the external community. These sessions are interactive and last approximately an hour. Your input is welcome.

**Thursday Night Football.** As has become an annual event, our football game against West Virginia State University this Thursday at 7 p.m. will be broadcast on MASN and Sportsnet. I encourage everyone to come out to the game to fill the stands. If not, join many of our friends and alums who will be watching on TV. We have received many positive comments about FSU being featured regionally. It is also an opportunity for us to run some of our TV commercials across several states.

**Theatre.** Thanks to Professor Rushton for inviting Ms. Jennifer Mathie, an accomplished and successful dancer and theatre professional, to campus. She taught a dance class in the morning and then met with students interested in learning about careers in theatre. I sat in for some of the discussion and it was great to see our students engaged in learning more about the possible career options.

