

Good morning,

Here is my weekly update with several pieces of good news.

**Admissions.** I hope you have had a chance to read Natalie Wagoner's update on admissions. We had a full house for our campus visit day on Saturday. We had to use chairs only rather than the informal table/chair arrangement because of the attendance. Thanks to all that helped. I am working with Admissions, Marketing and the Provost's Office to push for more video segments to be available for prospective students. Lastly, as you may know, FAFSA is going through a revision this year, and the federal process of updating is moving a bit slower than we would have hoped. This is important since so many of our students qualify for student aid. The only good news is that all schools are in the same situation concerning FAFSA.

**Businesses Visiting FSU.** The Office of Regional Development and Engagement continues to reach out to potential businesses and startups to partner with FSU. VP Al Delia had 7 companies participate in a discussion with FSU faculty and staff this past Monday. The goal is to get business entities to locate in our Innovation Park and provide partnership and internship opportunities for our faculty and students. The meeting on Monday went very well. We will continue to engage more faculty in the process.

**Athletics.** Congrats to our student athletes in our three new sports - Men's and Women's Wrestling and Women's Rugby - on a great start at FSU. Many of our fall sports are reaching the championship portion of their schedules. Our women's soccer team will once again be competing in the MEC Championship finals. The game is scheduled for Sunday afternoon in Charleston, WV. Go Bobcats, and we hope you bring home the championship trophy!

**Biomass Energy.** John Brewer, our Director of Facilities, is visiting several sites in Vermont that focus on sustainable, clean energy using Biomass (wood products). The visit is funded through the State of Maryland and does not require any university funds. The goal from several MD governmental departments is to reduce the carbon footprint in energy use as well as reduce the cost of energy. John has visited both private and public sites using wood pellets, dry wood chips and green wood chips. The sites varied from apartment complexes to small businesses to large companies, and also included a university, Norwich University, which is about 2/3 the size of FSU. Given our commitment to sustainability and clean energy, FSU is viewed by many as an important and logical partner in these efforts for the state of MD. John will share more as we follow up on this visit.



Lastly, thank you for the numerous kind messages sent to me from across campus. It means very much to me.