

Good afternoon,

Here is this week's update as we are in the final month of the spring semester.

Walkway Open. I suspect this habit will be hard to break, but the walkway between Lane University Center and the Cordts Center is now open. Construction for the EHSC continues to be in "its final stages." Our construction firm has opened up the walkway, and we hope to get the railings installed on the walkway down to the ball field soon.

Last April Bobcat Bound Day. Our third and final April Bobcat Bound Day will be held this Saturday. We have over 100 families and students signed up for the day. I hope this day has the same level of positive energy that we have seen in the previous two. Thank you to all who have made these three days such a success. I had hoped we would register between 180 and 240 students this month. We will have easily exceeded that upper goal.

Thoughts of a Colored Man. Keenan Scott's production was a great event on campus. We had many campus members, community members and alums who attended one of the very engaging productions. Keenan Scott received the FSU Young Alumnus award after the first Saturday's production. It was great to see him reconnect with fellow alums and an honor to recognize him for his accomplishments.

Middle States Visit. In preparation for our upcoming self-study, Dr. Terence Peavy, our MSCHE VP liaison, was on campus to meet with the self-study co-chairs, steering committee and executive team. He also chaired an open session for faculty, staff and students. Dr. Peavy said that FSU appears well organized for the upcoming self-study. We will submit the final report on our self-study design to MSCHE in the next few weeks. Our site visit is scheduled for the spring of 2025.

Athletics. Congratulations to our women on the Acro and Tumbling team. They will be competing for a national championship later this week. FSU is seeded 7th and will compete against the University of Oregon in the first round. FSU will host the MEC conference championship in outdoor track and field beginning Sunday, April 30. Earlier that day we will hold the dedication ceremony of the track in honor of Dr. Bob Lewis and Dr. Charlie Hircock, longtime track and cross-country coaches at FSU.

University Advisory Council. The UAC met last Friday and recommended two initiatives. The first is to pilot a common hour in the spring of 2024 when no classes would be scheduled. This common hour would allow for the scheduling of organizational and campus meetings. The second was to create a pilot project that would encourage student attendance at different events on campus throughout the academic year. At many schools, this is a credit-bearing activity. The UAC proposes to pilot this concept next year as non-credit bearing but allows participants to accumulate points to win various prizes. Two small groups of UAC members will take the lead on these initiatives.

125th Anniversary Competition. This is a teaser to the university community about a competition to celebrate our 125th anniversary. On the 120th anniversary of our founding, we had a downlink from the space station with our alum, Dr. Ricky Arnold. That downlink was with over 1300 middle school students on campus that day. I commented that the miners who founded FSU would have never predicted that in 1898. Campus and community members will be asked to "predict" FSU's 200th birthday in 2098 through whatever creative medium they choose. More on the competition in the upcoming weeks!

Brand Update. On Tuesday, May 2, from 3 – 4 p.m., there will be an update on branding in the Atkinson Room in Lane University Center. All are welcome to attend.

Stay safe and enjoy the final weeks of the semester.