

Good morning,

This is a brief mid-July update.

Fundraising. This past year has been a record year for the FSU Foundation. The foundation raised over \$4.6 million – topping last year’s record of \$3.7 million. That record amount was reflected in a record number of donors, 4915, a record amount from alums, \$3.07 million, and a record percentage of faculty and staff participation, 38.6%. *Thank you to everyone who contributed over the past year.* We are now at 93% of our Forging Futures Campaign goal of \$25 million. Most importantly, we have fundraised over \$3.1 million for student scholarships.

Trip to China. Along with Dean Singh and Alan Walker, I visited Hunan University of Business & Technology (HUTB) and Hubei University of Economics (HUBEI) last month. Thanks to Professors Lei Ye and Yiming Zhuang, who helped with translations and made the trip successful. We held our first-ever FSU graduation ceremony for HUTB students who received an FSU degree. And we negotiated with both HUTB and HUBEI on proposed future collaborations. I want to alert faculty interested in clean energy and environmental sustainability research to discussions I had with leadership at HUBEI. China has adopted an initiative called “Double Carbon” (<https://thechinaproject.com/2022/05/16/what-is-chinas-double-carbon-policy/>). Hubei University has been funded to be one of the research centers for this national initiative. Their administration is interested in exploring research collaborations with us on this topic. While it is early in the discussions, and there are likely to be some significant hurdles to overcome, there may be possibilities for FSU and, perhaps, UMCES to be involved. So, stay tuned if you have research interests.

SCOTUS Decision on Affirmative Action. There are many ongoing discussions and interpretations of the impact of the SCOTUS decision on Affirmative Action. It was a major topic of discussion at this week’s USM Presidents’ meeting. I do not see the decision impacting our operations and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We do not use race as a variable in our admissions process, and our institutional mission and values will continue to recognize the importance of DEI. Some have asked about any impact on scholarships. Our foundation scholarships do not use race as a component or criterion for awards. We will continue to monitor the implications of the ruling, and I’ll keep the campus informed if there are any potential impacts.

I hope everyone continues to enjoy their summer.