

Good morning, Bobcats. We have a very busy week ahead with a day-long visit from USM Chancellor Jay Perman followed by FSU's annual September 11th Remembrance event.

The official search for FSU's next president will launch this Wednesday, September 10 at a town hall on campus hosted by Chancellor Perman. Working in cooperation with USM's executive search firm and the recently appointed search and steering committee, the Chancellor will use this town hall as an opportunity to engage our faculty, staff, students and alumni to develop a list of qualities and characteristics you would like to see in FSU's next leader.

As a reminder, the town hall will be held in the ARMAH from 10-11:15 a.m. Here is the [link to join virtually](#), but I strongly encourage everyone to attend in-person, if possible. Town halls are a great opportunity for stakeholders to share their expectations, concerns and priorities. Making sure your voices are heard is critical to shaping the criteria of future leadership to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of FSU.

I realize that this time frame is a busy one for classes. If you are unable to attend in-person or watch the town hall virtually, but would like to share your thoughts with the Chancellor and the search and steering committee, you can do so by emailing them to [fsu-presidential-search@usmd.edu](mailto:fsu-presidential-search@usmd.edu).

Following the open town hall, Chancellor Perman will hold smaller listening sessions with select invited groups from across campus. Again, the feedback from these sessions will be instrumental in influencing a short list of candidates for the presidency.

On Thursday, we invite the campus community to gather on the lawn near the American flag display for our annual remembrance observation marking the 24th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Most of us are old enough to remember that fateful day when nearly 3,000 lives were lost to an act of terror. Your attendance at the remembrance event is a show of respect and gratitude and an acknowledgement of the unimaginable loss suffered by so many families that day 24 years ago. Annual events such as this are also a way for us to preserve the memory of this day – a day that brought the world together under the most horrific of circumstances. I am certain that this will be a truly moving experience for us all.

In closing, I hope to see many of you at either or both events this week. Please remember that your participation in the presidential search process is invaluable. An engaged campus community is a display of your commitment to transparency and will provide you with important insight into the process over the next several months.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD  
Interim President