

Aug. 5, 2016

Good morning,

The time for the start of the fall semester is quickly approaching.

Here are some updates from my office:

**Meetings in Baltimore.** I've attended two meetings recently in Baltimore. The first was with the MD Department of Budget and Management to answer questions regarding our proposed Education and Health Sciences Building. We responded to their questions and the meeting went well. We hope to begin the planning process which could take as long as 20 months. Dr. Tootoonchi, Mr. Rose, and I attended a meeting with other system presidents and staff to discuss the system budget guidelines. The meeting was to discuss challenges facing each institution. My focus was on the changing nature of our student body including their increasing need for financial aid and support for high-cost programs. The chancellor views this meeting as the beginning of a continued discussion on budgets and state support.

**Law enforcement Partners.** FSU sponsored a luncheon and workshop for law enforcement officers from the immediate region. The luncheon included a presentation by an Amherst MA police officer who discussed community policing in Amherst. City (both Frostburg & Cumberland), state, county, and campus officers attended.

**Targeted industry initiative.** FSU, the city of Frostburg, and the Appalachian Regional Commission are sponsoring a study to determine potential industries that might be attracted to Frostburg because of the university and local assets. This is an example of our commitment to be a regional partner in supporting development in the region.

**Enrollment.** Our data for the incoming first-year class showed a slight improvement this past month. At the end of June we were down 11% from the previous year (105 students). The data for the end of July show that we are down 9% (86 students). Thank you to all who are helping with the recruitment of students for this fall. Every student matters and I look forward to welcoming them in a few weeks.

My best to all ,

Ron

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