

Feb. 24, 2017

Good afternoon,

I hope everyone is enjoying the unusual spring-like weather. Some quick updates:

Meeting in Annapolis. This is budget time for the state of Maryland. I spent two days this week meeting with delegates and state senators to talk about Frostburg State University. I'll be back in Annapolis several times this month for hearings on our budget. The operating and capital budget testimonies will be posted [here](#) as they are completed. We also had an evening reception for FSU alums and legislators. We had a number of students there, including at least five who are serving as legislative interns this semester through the J. Glenn Beall Institute for Public Affairs. It's great to see them wearing Frostburg pins! Alumni who were there ranged from recent alums sharing news about their new babies to '57 grads (yes, 60 years ago!) telling me about the "original" buildings on campus.

Ongoing discussions. I continue to have listening sessions and evening sessions with students. We have spent time talking about the upcoming renovations to residence halls, the work of the parking committee led by SGA (looking at our current policy), and the need to do more to get students of all races together at events. I enjoyed the Thursday evening discussion with students and campus administrators on a variety of topics that was part of Black Excellence Week.

Please continue to follow the progress of the Strategic Planning Task Force [here](#). (You will need your FSU credentials to log in.) In the coming weeks, you can learn more about the "themes" that have emerged to help us as we move forward over the next several years. These themes will guide us in academic and student programming.

If you are interested in joining a discussion about the post-election environment, please join us on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. in the Lane Center's Atkinson Room for a "town-hall" style discussion, hosted by the Beall Institute, Civic Engagement and SGA. It should be a lively and informative time.

Student-athlete recognitions. As we continue with our winter and spring sports, I want to congratulate our athletes for their accomplishments and representing FSU. You should be proud of some of the recognitions they have received. We had three Bobcat "firsts" in the Capital Athletic Conference awards. Macey Nitchie and Christian March were named Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Swimmers of the Year and Kayla Truesdel is the CAC Athlete of the Year in indoor track and field. Kirsten Rayner of the women's basketball team and Tyler Michael from men's basketball were both voted on to the NCAA Div. III District 2 All-Academic team. Zach Shattuck continues to set U.S. Paralympic records at an impressive rate, and he heads into next weekend's ECAC Championships having totaled 38 records during his three-year career. Lastly, we continue to rack up weekly individual recognitions that demonstrate Bobcat excellence!

Campus Events. Take advantage of the upcoming cultural events including Theatre (*Father Comes Home from the Wars*); Music (FSU's Second Annual Jazz Fest Saturday and Navy Clarinet Quartet Sunday); Art ("New Works" exhibit later next week); and CES' events (Contemporary Violinist Daniel Davis and the Tibetan monks creating a sand mandala, performing and offering lectures and workshops). If you've seen House of Cards on Netflix, these Tibetan monks were featured in Season 3, and the several-day event is something special and probably a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

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