

May 22, 2018

Good morning,

As we reach the end of the 2018 academic year, here is an update on a few items.

Employment Updates. Leon Wyden joined us on May 14 as our Vice President for Administration and Finance. Mr. Wyden, a CPA, has worked at a number of colleges and universities in the areas of finance and administration. He most recently served as the Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer at the University of Findlay in Ohio. We are glad to have Leon with us and again, I thank Ms. Denise Murphy for stepping in to serve as the Interim VP since December.

We are finalizing the search committee to review the 40+ applicants for the Title IX coordinator. I have asked Ms. Sally Swann, Interim Title IX coordinator, to serve as the chair of the committee that will have faculty, staff, and student representation. We are also in the early stages of soliciting nominations and applications for the VP for Enrollment Management and hope to interview candidates prior to the start of the fall semester.

Greater Inclusion and Civility. This summer and coming academic year, we are asking city of Frostburg officials and student leaders to work with us in continuing to build a sense of community where discrimination, bias, and racism have no place. We are trying to build more bridges and open more lines of communications, in particular so those who have experienced acts of discrimination, bias, and racism feel that they can come forward with reporting these acts knowing that their complaints will be heard and respected.

There have been so many examples in recent weeks of this community coming together for the greater good, such as Beautify the Burg, Special Olympics, STEM Fest, and scores of other efforts large and small. These show our community as it should be. I encourage all of our campus and community organizations to consider similar bridge-building activities in the future.

I have received the SGA Resolution calling for more resources for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We will look to ways of increasing our resources in this area over the summer. I told SGA President Ben Forrest that I would provide a report back to SGA this August.

One of the [core values](#) of this university is this: *Frostburg State University is committed to developing cultural competence and cultivating understanding of and respect for a diversity of experiences and worldviews that encourage each person's ability to "take the perspective of the other."* We reaffirm this commitment in recognition of the work ahead to make this a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

Update on DII exploration. We have received the consultant's feasibility report regarding DII athletics. An executive summary will be prepared. At the last University Advisory Council meeting, leadership from the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and SGA were invited to read the full report at their convenience. Given the NCAA and conference timelines, we will have to make a preliminary decision about staying in DIII or pursuing DII membership by the end of June. A formal application for DII membership is not due until February of 2019.

End of 2018 Academic Year. We will have 787 students graduating this week during the two commencement ceremonies on Thursday, May 24. I congratulate the graduates and look forward to you

staying connected with FSU through our Alumni Association. (Please update your contact information [here](#).) I wish you all the success in your future years.

With regard to next year, we currently have 1,059 deposited new students for this upcoming fall (compared with 1,072 at this point last year) and are working with admitted students who have not yet decided on FSU. I hope we will have an incoming class larger than that in fall 2017. We are seeing an increase in interest from transfer students. Finally, to all continuing students, I wish you a safe, rewarding, and enjoyable summer and look forward to your return in August.

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