

Aug. 28, 2017

Good afternoon,

Welcome to all of the new students, faculty and staff joining us for the fall 2017 semester! And to everyone else, welcome back! Please allow me to share a few items in my first biweekly email of this academic year.

Thursday, Aug. 31: This Thursday is a busy day. There will be a State of the University presentation at 3:30 p.m. in the Pealer Recital Hall. All are welcome to attend. Later that evening at 7 p.m., the nationally ranked Bobcat football team will take on nationally ranked Stevenson University. Having two nationally ranked teams face each other on opening night is a rarity. So plan to come out early to support our team, then stay for the fireworks display afterwards. There will also be a Laughs @ Lane late-night comedy show following the fireworks.

Enrollments: The preliminary numbers show that we are welcoming over 1,200 new undergraduate students this fall. About a third of these students are transfer students from other schools. Again, welcome to each of you. On census date in mid-September, we will know more about the exact number of students on this campus, online, etc. We do anticipate our overall enrollment to be smaller than last year due in part to a large graduating class this past year.

Recruiting efforts will be a top priority this year. We are completing the search for a Dean of Enrollment Management. We are also planning to admit an FSU cohort of resident Bachelor of Science in Nursing students to campus for the first time as part of a cooperative agreement with Allegany College of Maryland. We also will begin our graduate Nurse Practitioner program in early 2018. Upon the recommendation of the University Advisory Council and others, we will be significantly increasing our marketing efforts. We will also be using new software to communicate more effectively with student applicants.

Strategic Planning: Thanks to the efforts of many this past year, we identified a vision and set of strategic goals for our Strategic Plan 2023. The goals, which will be outlined at the State of the University presentation on Thursday, provide an exciting opportunity for us as we approach our 125th anniversary in 2023. We have scheduled several “town halls” in September to identify potential action items and priorities associated with those goals. There will be more on these town halls later and they are open to the entire community.

Middle States Accreditation: A number of people and offices have been busy this summer preparing our report to Middle States. That report will be submitted this Friday, and we will have a visit from Middle States in mid-October to discuss the report and the findings with regard to Standard 7 on Institutional Assessment. At that point, I hope to report that we are in full compliance with Standard 7.

In closing, I wish each of you a successful year, and I hope that we embrace the values that make FSU a special place.