

March 9, 2022

Good afternoon,

There are just a few updates this week as we get close to spring break.

PACE. FSU was well represented at PACE this year. PACE, which stands for Positive Attitudes Change Everything, is the annual meeting held in Annapolis each year to highlight the accomplishments and priorities for Western Maryland, in particular Allegany and Garrett Counties. The FSU representatives emphasized our commitment to partnering with our colleagues from Allegany College of Maryland and Garrett College and the two county school districts to help meet regional workforce needs and attract young talent to stay in the region. We also talked about regional economic development. We provided briefs about FSU activities in meetings with the Comptroller and the secretaries of the Department of Natural Resources and Commerce. Legislators heard about our priorities for better broadband connectivity, more housing for professionals and their families and opportunities for this region to be a leader in outdoor recreation, including manufacturing of outdoor recreational equipment.

Capital Budget Testimony. Along with John Brewer and Troy Donoway, I'll be providing legislative testimony next week on our capital projects to the House and Senate committees dealing with capital budgets. I will be thanking the Governor and Legislature for their support for \$10 million to address infrastructure needs on this campus. In addition to these funds, the Regents have supported funding to renovate Cambridge Hall. I'll be asking VP Artie Travis to organize a small working group to look into possible redesigns of that space.

Enrollment. We continue to work diligently on our rate of admitted students who have paid their deposits, which is trailing last year's numbers. The number of acceptances is up over last year. The effort now is in converting those acceptances into deposits. We are hosting a Campus Visit Day this Saturday, which again looks promising. I am pleased that the campus will also be hosting a week of virtual visits the first week of April with an in-person Admitted Student Day on Saturday, April 9.

Ukraine. Like USM and much of the world, FSU condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. I offer our prayers and best hopes to those in our community with relatives or friends in Ukraine. The leadership and people of Ukraine are showing exceptional resolve. People have asked about the USM endowment and any funds tied to Russia; there are no funds held that are directly invested in Russia. The Chancellor's statement on Ukraine can be found at [this link](#).

NSSE. Some of our first-year and senior students may be receiving an email asking them to complete the NSSE (National Survey on Student Engagement). If you receive such a request, please respond. The survey is not a long one, and it provides us with an important snapshot of how we are doing in providing what are known as High Impact Practices (HIPs). The trend data and comparison to other schools helps us in planning for the in-class (e.g., seminars) and out-of-class educational offerings (e.g., study abroad, faculty research, internships) that we provide. Thank you, in advance, to the students who complete the survey.

Please continue to be safe.

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