

Feb. 2, 2022

Good afternoon,
Here's an update on a few items:

Pay Changes. Eligible full-time employees should have seen the \$1500 bonus in this week's paycheck. Those receiving the 1% cost of living increase will see that, with retroactive pay back to the January 12-25 period, in their next paycheck. The Payroll Department is also finishing the work on merit increases with the goal of having merit added to the March 2 paychecks, again retroactive.

Governor's Budget. While the Governor's budget is in its early stages of review, we are pleased to see the restoration of funds from the appropriations cut at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. We are also happy that the Governor is recommending \$10 million for FSU to be spent on capital improvements to our campus infrastructure. The budget will likely not be finalized until early April, near the end of the 90-day session. I plan to attend the PACE event in early March when Western Maryland officials visit with lawmakers in Annapolis to continue to make the case for supporting FSU. FSU is not on the legislative agenda for operating budget testimony this year, just for capital improvements.

NCAA and D2. The NCAA external reviewer, Jill Wilson, will be on campus tomorrow to meet with athletics staff and campus staff and faculty to review our progress toward D2 membership. This is the third and, hopefully, last site visit. If it goes well and our reports to the NCAA membership committee meet expectations, we should get word in early July that we are full D2 members in the NCAA with our student-athletes eligible to compete for NCAA championships.

Enrollment plans. Along with Academic Affairs leadership, I will be meeting with the Chancellor and USM staff next week to discuss our early plans for our strategic enrollment management plan. The meetings with department chairs have been very helpful in setting some of the parameters and opportunities for enrollment increases. With a limited pool of high school graduates, and a pool that has gotten smaller because of COVID, the discussions have included our expansion beyond the traditional 18-year-old.

Coffee Hour. We will begin holding virtual coffee hours again for faculty and staff beginning next Tuesday, February 8, at 3 p.m. An email has been sent to faculty and staff with details. I look forward to resuming these discussions and will plan, again, to have some in-person coffee events as long as there is interest.

I hope everyone continues to be safe and healthy!

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