

Good morning,

First, I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. I welcome everyone back who is on campus. And I hope the weather for 2023 is better than what we finished with in 2022. Here are a few updates for my first email of 2023.

New student enrollment. Our increase in deposits for spring 2023 continue to be higher than in the previous two springs. We are slightly behind in enrolling these students compared to last year. I hope we see an increase in the numbers by next week.

Academic program good news. The State Board of Nursing approved our new 4-year BSN program. That was the final approval we needed. Congrats to the nursing faculty and all who worked to get the necessary approvals. The Board of Public Works and the Board of Regents both approved our continuing efforts to work with Wiley Education to develop a plan to increase our online program offerings. We held an informational meeting in December prior to graduation with faculty and staff who would be involved in the planning process. We will continue to involve the appropriate departments and personnel as we work through the plan details.

MLK Day. We will be celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day next Monday, January 16th. This holiday is observed as a day of service to one's community as we celebrate the civil rights leader's life and legacy. I encourage everyone to use Monday to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and engage in service in his honor and memory.

Allegany Museum Exhibit. The Allegany Museum is currently featuring a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit on rural life in America. As a member of the Board of the Maryland Humanities and FSU president, I was invited to say a few words about the importance of the exhibit and the humanities to those attending the reception. I thank Dr. Kara Rogers Thomas for developing an accompanying exhibit featuring the efforts of our students to celebrate rural life in America. Professor Thomas sent an email to the campus community Tuesday morning with more information about the exhibit, which is worth seeing.

Realignment of Colleges. The Provost and I have been meeting with the three college deans and a few department chairs (from departments where we felt more discussion was needed) about the realignment process. I thank everyone who has participated and offered their thoughts and ideas as we continue to consider the future alignment of departments within colleges to better serve our students and our university mission.

Construction. Construction efforts during the holidays did not proceed as much as we had hoped. We had a meeting with our construction management team from College Park late last week. The furniture for the building is ready to be delivered. Unfortunately, some drywall and ceiling work has yet to be completed. Pouring of concrete for the walkways continues. The latest projection is that we should see furniture arriving near the end of January. We (VP Donoway, Director of Facilities John Brewer, and myself) are meeting every two weeks with the construction management team for updates.

I look forward to the beginning of the spring semester in a couple of weeks.

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