

Good evening,

Here are a few items to share with the university community:

Strategic Planning Session. As I am shared in a separate email, we are in the last year of our 5-year strategic plan. We will have a review session on our progress this Friday, which is open to the entire campus. Pat Sanaghan, who assisted us in developing the plan, will be here to lead the discussion in Gira 397 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Campus Visit Day. We had the largest group of visitors to campus last Saturday for our final campus visit day of this semester. Thanks to all that participated. We are still welcoming prospective students and their families for visits during the week. Departments have the opportunity to award a “departmental” scholarship for the first time this year. The deadline for selecting those awards is November 28. We have also opened up the application process for foundation scholarships. Normally the opening date is mid-spring semester. We will be scheduling three windows of opportunity for applications. The first window closes on January 3. The other windows will be in February 2023 and mid-March 2023. The intent is to use these foundation scholarships to further our recruiting and retention efforts.

Regional Recreational Center and Capital Improvements. Thank you to those who completed the survey on legislative priorities. We are compiling that list to share with state legislators and the governor’s office. The capital budget looks promising this year based on current budget projections. We are working closely with the Maryland Stadium Authority on the design process for a Regional Recreational Complex. A design company will be selected shortly after the RFP process is completed. The Maryland Stadium Authority will also be working with a company to complete a feasibility study on community use. Several of us visited The St. James in Springfield, Va. last week. It is an outstanding recreational complex under one roof. The visit was very informative, and we saw some possible options for the recreational complex we had not previously considered. The goal is to secure a private partner to assist with building and operating any complex we develop here.

Athletics. Congratulations to all of our student-athletes and coaching staff that competed in fall sports. This is our first year as a full-fledged member of the NCAA DII, enabling us to participate in national championships. We had considerable success this fall, including our women’s soccer team as our first team qualifying for NCAA championship competition. I also want to thank the men’s and women’s basketball teams and Nicole Higgins for hosting the local Children’s Adaptive Sports League (CASL) this Sunday for a fun event. The kids and their parents very much enjoyed the afternoon. This event along with others, such as Storybook Holiday, are examples of our student-athletes giving back to the community. They and their coaches are to be congratulated for improving the lives and experiences of children in this region.

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