

Good afternoon,

Here is a quick update on a few items.

Children's Storybook Holiday. I hope everyone is able to take part in Storybook Holiday this Saturday. It looks like the weather will cooperate with a chance of rain in the afternoon and decent temperatures. We are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Children's Literature Centre, which sponsors this event. A tv production crew from UPTV will be in town as well. Frostburg is being featured as one of four towns in UPTV's upcoming "Small Town Christmas" broadcast later this month. I know we will have plenty of student elves out in town! There are also two events that evening to cap off the day, "Miracle on 34th Street" downtown at the Palace Theatre and the Annie Moses Band, a CES event, on campus.

Middle States update. The steering committee to lead the campus effort for reaccreditation had its first meeting yesterday. Even though our reaccreditation self-study and visit are scheduled for spring 2025, the self-study process begins two years prior to the visit. There will be broad representation from campus for the self-study. The staff senate has provided names of individuals they would like considered for the process. We are awaiting a similar list from the faculty senate and will be reaching out to SGA and Student Affairs for students as well. We hope to have the self-study group identified by mid-January. Sara-Beth Bitteringer, Sudhir Singh and Sara Wilhelm are serving as co-chairs.

Presidential Review. The USM Board of Regents has a policy to conduct a formative review of university presidents on a regular basis. My review, along with that of some others, was delayed due to COVID-19. The former president of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges will be on campus next week to meet with leadership from the three shared governance entities, community leaders, leadership from the Foundation and Alumni Boards, and the Executive Cabinet as part of that review.

Visit from Mr. Craig Dixon. Several weeks back, several of us traveled to Springfield, Va. to tour [The St. James](#), an exceptional sports, health and entertainment complex. Mr. Craig Dixon, co-founder and co-CEO, is on campus today to learn more about our plans for a Regional Recreational Complex. I was most impressed with Mr. Dixon's vision for The St. James as being more than a health club, but rather a destination for individuals interested in health, sports and wellness.

We are three weeks from celebrating our winter 2022 commencement. I hope everyone continues to work toward a successful conclusion of the 2022 fall semester.

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