

Here are a few updates this week:

Board of Regents February Meeting. USM's education presentation at last week's Board meeting in Shady Grove focused on "anchor institutions." The presentation highlighted FSU. You can watch it [here](#) starting at the 24-minute mark. The Regents also approved the BS Dual Certification Major in Elementary Education/Special Education and the MS in Environmental Management in Sustainability, which is offered jointly with UMCES. Congrats to all who helped move these degree programs forward.

Giving Day. Next Wednesday, March 1, is #BobcatGivingDay. FSU is, once again, celebrating 24 hours of giving starting at noon on March 1 and ending at noon on March 2. I encourage you to make a gift to the FSU Fund that means the most to you. The fund that receives the most DONORS (not DOLLARS) will earn an additional \$10,000 from the FSU Foundation Board of Directors. Those making gifts of \$60 or more will receive a pair of limited-edition Bobcat socks (while supplies last). If you're on campus that day, be sure to check out the Giving Day table in the Lane University Center for giveaways, refreshments and surprises from noon to 4:00 pm. You can learn more (or make your gift early) by visiting www.frostburg.edu/givingday.

Legislative Testimony. Our biannual testimony before the state legislature is set for March. Traki Taylor, Troy Donoway and I will be meeting with house and senate committees next week on the operating budget.

Brownsville Residence Hall. Thanks to the staff from Student Affairs, Residence Life, and Administration and Finance that helped us mitigate the water problems from a week ago. Students from that wing have been relocated. We have had outside contractors on campus working with our facilities team to determine what caused the leaks and the steps we need to take to fix the problem and ensure that the wing of the building is safe moving forward.

Strategic Planning Discussion. I'll be sharing with the campus community the results from Wednesday's open discussion on the future priorities of our strategic plan. The goal is to identify two to three priorities for the next three years that emanate from our current strategic plan, which runs from 2018 to 2023. I thank those from the campus community who have taken the time to be involved in the discussions and will welcome additional comments via email over the next few weeks. We will give our governance groups an opportunity to weigh in as well.

125 years ago in the Frostburg Mining Journal (location, location, location! The debate continues):

Two Quotations. The Frostburg *Journal*, in referring to Cumberland, says:

And then it wouldn't be a bad idea to have "the councilmen or others" return the "roast" to the lawyers, school commissioners, etc., who wish to locate a Normal School in a town whose people will not only not get "a supply of pure water," but compel its women to boil the sulfur, pulp, and pus out of the Potomac. And this is from the same issue of the same paper concerning Frostburg: The streets are reeking with mud, the crossings are well nigh submerged and the pavements, that ought to be self-cleansing, are sticky with the miserable stuff. Thence, with all its baleful absorptions, it is taken into the houses to soil the floors, carpets *and eventually load the atmosphere with poison*. If this kind of warfare is continued, the Normal School, when secured, will have to be located in some community which either has no paper, or has one which will refrain from pasting a black eye on its own town or that of its neighbors. The *Journal* is not making a record for consistency or brightness in its campaign to drive the Normal School away from Allegany county." – *Cumberland News*.

The trouble with the *Journal* is – it tells the truth – to its own town authorities as well as other people. If the gentlemen in charge here would use soft-weather occasions to pull that awful coat of cinder, ashes and coal-dust from Main street into the gutters and turn on some of town's water, the trouble could so far be easily and inexpensively removed. In brief, we are suffering from a costly error that can be removed in much less time than it was committed. And this *will be done* whether Normal School comes or not. As to driving the Normal School out of the county – the *Journal* does not hesitate to say that *so far as the county is concerned*, it would just as well go outside as in Cumberland. For by the time the narrow dimensions of the Academy are filled with the scions of the city's wealthy families, to be educated *at home* at State expense, there will be but little room for poor outsiders from anywhere.

What Next? First get the new Normal School for Allegany county and then let the people of the county peaceably agree among themselves, through proper representation as to the most suitable place, all things considered, at which to locate it." – Cumberland *Alleganian*. "The people of the county" have been "peaceably" paying Cumberland taxes these many years – so many, indeed, that, like the pickpocket, if there is anything Cumberland loves more than everything else when there is a jewel within reach, it is "peace."

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