

Feb. 2, 2022

Good afternoon,

Here's a quick update on a few items.

### **FSU Alum recognized among 25 Black Marylanders**

Major General Robert Edmonson II, '90 was recently honored by the [Baltimore Sun](#) as one of "25 Black Marylanders to Watch" in 2022. Gen. Edmonson, who has visited with students and staff on numerous campus visits, serves as the commander of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. He will be honored with an honorary doctorate at commencement in May.

### **Improving health conditions in the region**

I am pleased to see the continued decrease of COVID-19 in this region. We continue to see a low rate of the virus on campus as well. Discussions at the system level are beginning to focus on next steps for campuses to consider if the environment continues to improve. I hope we can begin sharing some changes in our campus response to the virus in the upcoming days and weeks.

### **Enrollment**

We have seen an increase in deposits for next year's class even though we still trail last year's number. As we begin distributing financial aid packages and information to prospective students, I hope we will eliminate that gap. I have completed the meetings with academic department chairs. I will be providing a summary report to campus in the not-too-distant future. Thanks to the Deans and individuals from Academic Affairs, Marketing and Admissions for being part of the discussions. Several ideas have already been implemented. An encouraging aspect of these meetings was the willingness of many departments to engage in diversifying our academic program portfolio. Some of that diversification included discussions on dual-enrollment, new certificates, online programming and multidisciplinary opportunities. As one example, I thank the Faculty Senate for its recommendation to proceed with an online degree completion program in Multidisciplinary Studies. If we are to grow and have a secure foundation for the future, initiatives that strengthen not only our traditional market, but also allow us to explore new student markets, will be essential.

### **Virtual Coffee Hour**

Thank you to the staff and faculty who attended yesterday's virtual coffee hour. We tried a new approach this time, but it didn't generate the level of questions we hoped for. We will be returning to our previous model for future coffee hours. I hope to have an email out to staff and faculty later this week offering some times for in person coffees of smaller groups in the Lane

Center. The coffee hours I had last semester allowed for smaller groups to engage in deeper conversations.

I hope everyone continues to be safe and healthy. Go Bobcats.

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