

March 17, 2022

Good morning,

Here is my weekly update on a few items:

Capital Budget Testimony. FSU submitted written testimony to the MD Senate and House Committees responsible for capital budget expenditures. I am pleased that it appears we have support for the \$10 million proposed by the Governor to support our infrastructure improvements. Nearly \$4 million will go to electrical and IT fiber upgrades for the campus. The bulk of the remaining funds will go for improvements in Pealer Performing Arts Center, Compton, Old Main, Dunkle, Fine Arts and Hitchins. The work varies by building depending on needs but can include HVAC replacement, new roofs and new windows.

Chancellor Visit. Dr. Jay Perman, USM Chancellor, has tentatively scheduled his annual visit to FSU for April 22. We will include an open town hall, lunch with students from the President's Leadership Circle, a meeting with representatives from SGA, Staff Senate, and Faculty Senate, visiting a couple of Friday classes, as well as visits to the Innovation Park and the UMCES Appalachian Lab. More information will be available on his schedule in April.

UCDEI Training. A reminder to all staff and faculty that the UCDEI training on LinkedIn should be completed by March 31. If you have questions, please reach out to your supervisor or HR. This training is an important component of our commitment to a Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive campus community.

CARES Act Funding. Students are receiving the spring installment of CARES Act funding from the American Rescue Plan. FSU is distributing nearly \$2.5 million this spring. Over \$10 million has been distributed since the pandemic began. I want to thank VPs John Short, Al Delia and Artie Travis for taking the lead in making the distribution of CARES Act funds possible over the past two years. We know it has made a difference for many students.

Spring Break and Testing. To our students who will be enjoying their first spring break in two years, enjoy yourself but please use good judgment while you are away. COVID cases remain low on campus and have dropped significantly in the region. We are expecting all members of the community (staff, faculty and students) who travel over spring break to take a rapid antigen test when they return to campus early the week of March 28. Depending on the results, we may make changes to our masking policy. Until then, please continue to mask indoors and also test weekly if you have a vaccine exemption. The testing center will be closed next week over the spring break, but will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 28.

I hope the weather cooperates and the week is an opportunity for all to enjoy.

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
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