

Good afternoon. Here are a few updates:

**Celebrating Cultural Diversity.** A fellow USM President recently shared with me that he publicizes the different cultures and groups being honored throughout the year in his campus emails. I thought that was a great initiative that I want to follow. May honors the Asian-American and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders and it is also Jewish American Heritage Month. PBS produced a [video](#) last year on the AA & NHPI community. You can learn more about Jewish American Heritage Month at this [website](#).

**Board of Regents Meeting.** The USM Regents met last Friday. Two significant actions taken included the Regents voting to allow FSU to take ownership of the former Frostburg City Hall for it to become the FSU Regional Science Center, as well as approval of the proposed tuition and fees for all USM institutions for FY23. Our recommended tuition and fees were discussed with student leadership earlier this semester. Lastly, I presented a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan to the Regents which they endorsed. I've shared details of the plan with the academic department chairs and will more fully discuss it with the Staff and Faculty Senates. The short-term goal is to increase undergraduate enrollment by 320 students for fall 2023 through additional recruitment efforts and improved student persistence.

**Provost Traki Taylor.** Incoming provost Traki Taylor was originally scheduled to begin at FSU in mid-July. However, we have been able to move her first day at FSU up to June 1. I am pleased to have her on campus sooner so she can take part in the June Preview sessions and begin her work preparing for the next academic year. She had been scheduled to visit campus next week. However, with the new starting date, she decided to cancel that visit and work on finishing up work in Florida and getting everything packed.

**Regional Recreation Center.** As I have mentioned previously, the Governor, with the help of our local legislators, approved \$5 million for the design work on an indoor regional recreational center to be located on the FSU campus. We will be working with the Maryland Stadium Authority on the design process. The Center would house indoor turfed fields to support the FSU community, as well as be an economic development and recreational asset for the region.

**Teacher Appreciation Week.** In honor of teacher appreciation week, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our FSU faculty for their dedication and commitment to our students. The Center for Teaching Excellence has invited FSU students and the campus community to send Thank-a-Grams to help celebrate this week. Be sure to take this opportunity to send a message to your favorite teacher, mentor or teaching/learning assistant who has helped you learn and made a difference to you. You can find postcards in locations across campus, including the library, Lane Center and Help Desk. You can also submit online at <https://forms.office.com/r/mntMHMjnat>.

**Beautify the 'Burg.** This Saturday, weather permitting, Beautify the 'Burg will bring the Frostburg and FSU communities together to clean up the City of Frostburg. Volunteers will be out painting parking meter poles, sweeping the streets, planting flowers, picking up trash and working on other necessary projects. Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to take part. We appreciate your service to the community.

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