

Good morning,

Here is my biweekly summer update for campus:

Employee Appreciation Week. We have been celebrating Employee Appreciation Week. You can see the series of events in the attached PDF. The “Flag Day” desserts provided by Chartwells and the Office of University Advancement yesterday were quite tasty, and some were even healthy! Thank you to all our faculty and staff for helping our students complete another year here at FSU.

Bobcat Welcome Sessions. The second welcome session is underway today for our incoming class of students. The session last weekend resulted in over 90 students registering for school and their families getting important questions answered about FSU. For those on campus, please welcome these new Bobcats when you see them.

Enrollment and Financial Aid. Admissions and Financial Aid are working hard to increase our deposit numbers for the fall. We have received over 370 new applications, many of which are transfers, since mid-May. USM has provided us with additional need-based funding to support MD students with “Expected Family Contributions (EFC)” of less than \$10,000. We are also aggressively distributing the remaining FSU Foundation funds available to help our students this fall. In addition, Academic Affairs is working to increase our retention numbers (returning students) as well.

Challenger Center. FSU has submitted a formal application for a Challenger Learning Center in Frostburg, which will be the focal point of the new Regional Science Center to be housed in the former City Hall building on Main Street. The national Challenger Center organization has accepted the application. Renovations to the building will begin after the design is finalized. We held off on submitting the application until we knew we had sufficient resources from contributions by the State, other government entities and private donors to make it a reality.

COVID response. I’ve been getting questions from some parents about vaccine and masking requirements. I have responded that we strongly recommend individuals stay current with CDC vaccination recommendations. Consistent with the messages from some of the other USM institutions, we expect a greater level of personal responsibility from all individuals to monitor their health and take appropriate actions to safeguard other community members.

TONY Awards night. The photo below shows three Bobcats, Jeffrey Keilholtz, Jessica Frances Dukes and Sean Cercone, who attended this year’s TONY award ceremony. It is great to see them staying in touch with each other and sharing their FSU connection through social media.



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