

Here are a few updates for the campus community:

Enrollment. Both Admissions and Academic Affairs are working to close the gap in enrollments for this upcoming fall semester. Dr. Taylor, Mr. Cooper and I, along with Admissions staff, held a virtual Q&A session with family members of prospective students earlier this week. It was well attended, and we had quite a few good questions from parents.

While we are already implementing the new Strategic Enrollment Plan for the incoming Fall 2023 class, we are processing quite a few late applications and deposits, especially among transfer students. Ben Norris, coordinating with dept. chairs, is leading the effort to re-enroll students and find solutions for students with holds barring them from registering for fall. We had a very good meeting with USM leadership this week to review our actions and plans.

Regional Science Center and Multicultural Center. We've added signage for both centers so the public can see what we plan for both buildings. You will also begin to see new signage for buildings on campus.



New USMH Interim Executive Director. Mark Halsey recently retired as Executive Director at USM-Hagerstown. FSU serves as the coordinating institution for USMH operations. We were involved in the selection of Dr. Larry Weill as the Interim Executive Director. He began his position this past Wednesday. Dr. Weill has held numerous academic and administrative positions, including President of Gordon State College in Georgia. He most recently served as Interim Provost at SUNY Sullivan. I want to thank Ms. Lisa McCulloh for serving as Acting Executive Director for the past few weeks. She and the USMH staff kept the Center functioning well. A national search for the next Executive Director will begin this fall.

Covid Update. Allegany County is now listed as “medium” by CDC in terms of transmissibility. The CDC also issued revised guidelines yesterday. Our Response and Recovery team will be reviewing those new guidelines. There seems to be a misperception among a few university community members that there was a mandate or requirement from CDC requiring mask wearing indoors. That is not the case. We have been and will continue to follow CDC guidelines and coordinate any response with USM and county and state health guidelines.

It's great to see students returning to campus and the community as we prepare for our fall opening.

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