



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JONATHAN C. GIBRALTER, PH.D.  
101 BRADDOCK ROAD  
FROSTBURG, MD 21532-2303  
T 301.687.4111  
F 301.687.7070

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Governor O'Malley:

As required by legislation, the Frostburg State University (FSU) Board of Visitors respectfully submits its annual report for Academic Year 2010-2011. During this reporting year, Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar entered his fifth year as a visionary president who provides exceptional leadership to the campus community, region, and state of Maryland. We thank him for his nationally recognized commitment to addressing important contemporary educational issues, including environmental sustainability and student wellness. For the reporting period, some of the most important institutional achievements that have strengthened the University include:

- Enrolling the largest number of students in the history of Frostburg State University (5,470) in fall 2010. For fall 2011, the University has experienced substantial growth (15.6 percent) in total graduate student enrollment (from 604 in fall 2010 to 698 in fall 2011), including a 75 percent increase in MBA program enrollment over the last year (from 144 in fall 2010 to 252 in fall 2011).
- Submitting the University's Periodic Review Report to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education on June 1, 2011. The report represents over 18 months of work by a campus-wide steering committee, numerous work groups, and other campus constituents. The Middle States Commission will meet to officially review the report in November 2011.
- Adopting and gaining University System of Maryland approval of a new mission statement and a revised strategic plan. This plan will move the institution to a position of national distinction and academic excellence by making more intentional Frostburg's focus on experiential and applied learning opportunities for students, improving the University's facilities so students live and learn in a modern and technologically sophisticated environment, and increasing student quality and persistence to graduation.
- Internationalizing the campus by significantly expanding the number of international students attending FSU, including those from Europe, China, and the Middle East, and increasing study abroad opportunities for Frostburg students.

- Completing the renovation and expansion of the Lane University Center and gaining final approval for the 2012 construction of the University's new Center for Communications and Information Technology (CCIT). We want to thank you for advancing construction of the CCIT. This important capital project will greatly enhance the campus and help to meet the instructional and co-curricular programming needs of Frostburg students. Tawes Hall will be demolished beginning in January 2012 to make room for CCIT and the new building will bring FSU closer to our target enrollment of 6,000 students by 2020.
- Breaking ground in September 2011 for the University's new Sustainable Energy Research Facility (SERF) at the Allegany Business Center at Frostburg State University. Construction of the facility will highlight the University's role as an important regional center for energy policy discussion and renewable resources research and development. Frostburg State University was recognized in May 2010 by the *Princeton Review's Guide to 286 Green Colleges* for its commitment to sustainability in terms of campus infrastructure, activities, and initiatives. Frostburg State also received the Climate Leadership Award from Second Nature in June 2011.
- Continuing renovation of student residence halls, including Gray Hall, which was begun in spring 2011 and completed for fall 2011. Simpson Hall is scheduled for renovation for fall 2012.
- Achieving reaffirmation of AACSB Maintenance of Accreditation for the College of Business following a visit of the Peer Review Team in January 2011. In August 2010, the University's MBA was ranked ninth nationally as a best buy among AACSB-accredited online MBA programs by GetEducated.com, a consumer watchdog group that reviews and ranks online academic programs for cost, quality, and credibility.
- Expanding the University's academic programs offered at off-site instructional locations. These include B.S. degrees in Psychology at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) and Engineering at Arundel Mills Regional Higher Education Center.
- Growing summer 2011 online course registrations to 1,407, an increase of 6.2 percent from the summer of 2010. A total of 136 online course sections were offered in the summer of 2011. Overall enrollment for online summer courses has grown 324 percent between 2003 and 2011. Intersession course enrollments grew to an all-time high of 767 in January 2011. Overall, total online enrollments during Intersession have grown 249 percent between 2004 and 2011.
- Helping students make better choices about their health and wellness through the University's Creating Healthy, Informed, Lasting Lifestyles (CHILL) program and initiatives designed to reduce student binge drinking. In August 2011, Frostburg State University became a smoke-free campus.
- Utilizing MAP-Works, an early warning system that allows faculty, staff, and coaches to record contacts and issue alerts about students who may be experiencing difficulty in adjusting to the academic and social life of college. Implemented in fall 2010 as one of the University's *Closing the Achievement Gap* initiatives, the program helps students address issues early and connect with campus resources, before academic and social problems become serious.

- Establishing the President's Advisory Council against Gender-Based Violence in April 2011. This Council will review policies and procedures and make recommendations in light of state and federal expectations and best practices in a campus-wide effort to educate students, faculty, and staff about the issue of gender-based violence and its related programming, policies, and services.
- Providing unique student leadership development and volunteerism opportunities through the President's Leadership Circle and the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement. The University established the President's Experiential Learning Enhancement Fund, identifying \$35,000 in faculty support to promote activities that enhance experiential learning.

Members of the President's Leadership Circle, faculty, and staff visited China in spring 2011 and took part in discussions on leadership at Hunan Normal University.

- Successfully pursuing the University's comprehensive campaign, *Staking Our Claim: The Campaign for Frostburg*, which focused on the themes of academic, regional, and cultural enrichment with a goal of raising \$15 million. In June 2011, the campaign concluded and had raised \$16.7 million, thanks to the generosity of the University's friends and supporters. At its spring 2010 retreat, the FSU Foundation made a commitment to raise an additional \$2.5 million for a Presidential Merit Scholarship program in response to the institution's plan to improve the academic profile of entering students.

We are pleased to report Frostburg State University's many important accomplishments and its ongoing commitment to the citizens of Maryland as a quality institution of higher learning. Frostburg State University is an important force for economic development and a center for cultural enrichment in the region. We are especially pleased that the University has established international links that will enrich the campus and provide many global opportunities for FSU students and faculty.

#### *The Need for Modern Campus Facilities*

The University has recognized through its new strategic plan the need to greatly improve its facilities so students live and learn in a modern and technologically sophisticated environment. Again, the board is truly grateful for the support the University has received from the state, including approval to begin construction of the new CCIT, now scheduled for completion in 2014.

We strongly believe that the future excellence of Frostburg State University requires continued and strong state support of the University's desire to expand and modernize its campus facilities. Over 90 percent of the buildings on the FSU campus were built before 1978 and we are especially concerned about the deteriorating condition of the institution's physical plant.

The expedited planning and construction of Frostburg's recently proposed Education and Allied Health Building, the renovation of Framptom Hall as the sole home of the University's College of Business, and the construction of a 425-bed campus residence hall are all necessary to bring FSU's facilities to 21<sup>st</sup>-century standards. We ask for your support and endorsement of these important capital projects.

Looking Toward the Future

Frostburg State University's future is exceptionally bright. Its strong commitment to increasing student quality and persistence to graduation, enhancing experiential and applied learning opportunities for students, pursuing environmental sustainability, promoting student wellness, and modernizing its facilities will allow the University to gain a national reputation for excellence and innovation. The successful conclusion of *Staking Our Claim: The Campaign for Frostburg* is evidence that the University is held in high esteem by its many alumni, friends, and associates. We highly commend Dr. Gibraltar and the entire University community for their many outstanding achievements. We ask that this fine university be recognized and supported for its continued excellence and service to Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Turnbull". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. David Turnbull  
Chair, FSU Board of Visitors

cc: Hon. Thomas V. Mike Miller  
Hon. Michael E. Busch  
Dr. Danette Gerald Howard  
Dr. William E. Kirwan  
Mr. Orlan M. Johnson  
FSU Board of Visitors  
FSU Executive Committee  
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