



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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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 Board of Visitors respectfully submits its annual report for Academic Year 2007-2008, which marked Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar's second year as president.

Under Dr. Gibraltar's visionary leadership, Frostburg State University (FSU) has evolved into an important state-wide and regional institution where innovation, effectiveness, quality and, most importantly, student success and welfare are highly valued and promoted by all segments of the University community. For the reporting period, some of the most important institutional achievements that have contributed to the development and strengthening of the University include:

- Increasing undergraduate enrollments and higher admission standards
- New academic programs in Engineering, Nursing, Information Technology, Computer Networking, and International Business.
- Grant awards to fund a Sustainable Energy Research Center, a Nanotechnology Laboratory, and a Shale Analysis Laboratory
- Growth of the University's online education program with enrollments increasing 217% over the last five years.
- Expansion of international education to include partner institutions in Ireland, Great Britain, Denmark, and China
- A new student wellness program entitled Creating Healthy, Informed, Lasting Lifestyles (CHILL), made possible by a grant the AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, that will serve as a national model for other universities and colleges
- A new Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement that will strengthen the University's nationally recognized programs in community service and volunteerism
- Full occupancy of the first Research Building of the Allegany Business Center at Frostburg State University
- Renovation of the Lyric Building in downtown Frostburg, which will house the Office of University Advancement, Alumni Affairs, and a branch of the University Bookstore.
- Restructuring of the Office of University Advancement to increase efficiency and enhance performance
- New strategies to more effectively market the University.

In the upcoming year, the University will meet regional and state-wide workforce needs by planning new academic programs and expanding its strong community partnerships. The commitment of the University to the region and to its students and alumni are steadfast; however, there are several challenges we believe must be met if it is to flourish in the future. We believe that meeting these challenges will require additional operating resources for the University and improvements to its facilities.

1. *We recommend as a first priority state approval of the University's proposed Center for Communications and Information Technology (CCIT) and an accelerated planning and construction schedule for the Education Professions and Health Sciences Center (EPHSC).*

The University's present facilities for its communication, technology, and teacher education programs are, on the average, over 30 years old and cannot support contemporary instruction. The planning and design of the new CCIT, when approved by the state, will not begin until 2011, with an anticipated opening in 2014. The EPHSC is not slated to be designed until 2014 and may not open until 2017. It is important that the planning and construction of the CCIT is not delayed. Just as importantly, the planning and construction of the EPHSC must go forward in a timelier fashion.

The age of many classroom buildings on campus makes it difficult for several academic programs to recruit students. Most of the University's academic buildings were completed by 1970 and planned for the 1960-era campus population of approximately 1,600 students. Consequently, a large number of classrooms at Frostburg are undersized and ill-designed for the University's present student population and programs.

2. *We recommend additional state support for the University's efforts to increase security on campus, provide additional student counseling staff and psychological services, and expand programming to fight alcohol and other drug abuse. We congratulate Dr. Gibraltar on his recent Presidential Leadership Award from a consortium of higher education associations for innovative alcohol prevention work at the University.*

Campus security needs continue to grow due to external forces. In the aftermath of the tragedy at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech), the University has invested in a number of important security systems to safeguard students, faculty, and staff. However, more work to protect the campus is needed. In addition to these concerns, student demand for help through the University's Counseling Center continues to grow and the expansion of alcohol and drug education programs remains a top priority. The University is in need of additional resources to meet these critical student-welfare needs.

3. *We endorse and commend the University's plan to create an Office of Sustainability. We proudly recognize that Dr. Gibraltar has signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.*

We also congratulate the University for its sizeable grant from the U.S Department of Energy to build a Sustainable Energy Research Facility. We believe that this new facility, along with the University's ongoing exploration of alternative forms of energy production, including the Wind-Solar Energy Program (WISE) will quickly establish the University as an important regional center for energy issues and policy.

Despite the University's strong commitment to preserving the environment, we recognize that reducing the University's carbon footprint is difficult when the vast majority of the institution's academic and residential buildings are extremely energy inefficient. We believe the campus will need to make a large investment in infrastructure if it hopes to truly minimize its carbon footprint.

4. *We urge additional state funding to support both the University's new B.S. in Nursing and planned M.S. Nursing programs.*

The development of the University's new B.S. in Nursing program, an important step in addressing nursing needs in the region and the state, was made possible by the supplemental funding the University received in FY 2009. However, this was one-time money, and the University must receive additional funding if this program is to reach its fullest potential.

To help meet the state-wide need for nursing faculty, the University is developing an M.S. in Nursing. Additional state funding is needed to allow Frostburg to offer this degree, which will assist all Maryland nursing programs.

5. *We recognize that Frostburg State University faculty salaries are the lowest in the entire University System of Maryland. We fully support the University's efforts to raise all faculty salaries to a competitive and equitable level.*

In FY07, Frostburg State University faculty members were at the 53rd percentile nationally in salary. We are pleased that Dr. Gibraltar committed a sizeable amount of University resources to improve faculty salaries in FY 2008 and that he hopes to do so again in FY 2009; however, we recognize that future short-term equity adjustments in faculty salaries may be difficult due to limitations in the University's operating budget.

Much has been accomplished this year. Frostburg State University remains a vital part of the community of western Maryland without which the region would face serious economic difficulties. We strongly urge full support for this outstanding institution as it works to educate the citizens of Maryland, meet state-side workforce needs, and further the economic development of the region.

Sincerely,



Mr. David Turnbull, Chair

cc: Hon Thomas V. Mike Miller
Hon Michael Busch
Dr. William E. Kirwan
Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.
Members Board of Visitors FSU
FSU Executive Committee