

Hello Everybody!

Welcome to our second communication about issues and trends that are taking place on the college campus and thank you for all the wonderful feedback I've received about this new way of communicating with the college campus. I certainly look forward to your continued feedback, including all those wonderful insights about camera angle, outfits and earrings! So thank you very much for that.

I want to start off by offering some major kudos to some people on our college campus. From what I can tell, it was wonderfully planned and executed and wonderful participation in our Major Exploration Faire. My observation of what occurred and my conversations with people who were participating is that it was absolutely wonderful. So I want to thank our folks in Counseling who did such a phenomenal job of planning that and more importantly, I know our students thank you for that because there's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the educational offerings of this institution.

I also want to give a loud shout-out to the Speech Team. It was unbelievable looking at all those awards the Talking Hawks! They were phenomenal. And also, our student newspaper, the Express, with the awards they received. I think these are things that we should certainly be congratulating the college community on, so thank you to our students and our faculty and staff who support those groups and all the work that went into preparing them for those events.

A few pieces of information I'd like to share with you and be happy to talk more about them at the College Town Meeting. First of all, the [Dublin] Educational Hub. I want to share with you, based on some wonderful collaboration and lots of feedback that was offered by the college community, the College and the District have decided to delay opening the Dublin Educational Hub until the Fall of 2009. As you know, we were planning on January of 2009, but I think we all want this to be the best experience for our students and as a result of that, we've decided that we want to take the time and energy to be more focused in how we plan, and more importantly, have an opportunity for everybody to have their needs met and really create the LPC experience for our students in Dublin. So we're going to delay that. I believe many of you have already heard this already, but I want to give some wonderful kudos to Dr. Laurel Jones, Ms. Sylvia Rodriguez, and our Academic Deans. Steve Gunderson, who worked so hard in preparing pieces of information to help guide the planning of that on a very quick basis and turnaround. They did a phenomenal job and all of that hard work will be used to plan a much more effective opening of our center in the fall.

We continue to do our work on our facilities. You will notice that our College Center for the Arts is continuously growing. Every day, you walk past and there's something new. Very important to that, our Facilities Committee will continue their work in hearing feedback about how we go about assigning resources to the college campus for the remaining facilities projects. As I shared at the Town Meeting, we're going to share the pain, and we're going to have to look at the scope of the projects. We have some rough numbers we're trying to bat around. In the near future, hopefully at next week's facilities committee, we'll have some round numbers to be able to share with the college community and those representatives about how we should be allocating our resources for the remaining projects we have on the docket.

I want to remind everyone and thank them for their work on Accreditation, but we're not done yet! I know that we have some new pieces of information that have gone up on the wiki, thank you to all of those that have been involved in that. But you know we've still got to get those revisions done, and spend some time thinking about how our visit will take place, what we want to occur and what message and planning agendas we need to pull from that. So I want to thank you all for your hard work but continue to emphasize we've got to keep working on that. This is what allows us to operate as an institution of education – our Accreditation. And I think we want to make sure that we continue to focus and put our energy on that.

The last thing I'd like to talk about the proposed rollback. As Jason [Morris] has informed you through the EMC, we have been in discussions at the DEMC at the District level regarding a proposed rollback for this year. One of the things that's important is that we recognize at this point that there are growth dollars left on the table by the state that we may be able to secure that may better position the college in the future. In particular, we know that growth dollars may not be on the table in subsequent years. So I know we're going through a very deliberative process of talking about that. I'd like to thank the district staff and also our DEMC and CEMC for thinking about these issues. I believe we'll need to make a decision on this by the end of the month, so CEMC is in the process of developing, analyzing the data, and offering a recommendation to me that I will forward to the chancellor by the end of the month. That being said, I think it's a healthy conversation, I think we all appreciate the opportunity to have a discussion before action is taken. And I want to thank everybody for their role in that.

Last but not least, and most importantly, I want to thank my cameraman, Jeff [Sperry] for continuing to do this deal. And also thank you all for your feedback. If you have any questions, feel free to email me or give me a call. More importantly, I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about them at our Town Meeting.

I hope all is well! Take care!