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**[FacultyStaff] Message from Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., April 25, 2024**

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President's Office <President.Office@fredonia.edu>

Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 6:31 PM

Reply-To: president.office@fredonia.edu

To: All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>, Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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April 25, 2024

Dear Students,

Happy Thursday evening! With just two more weeks of classes ahead of us, I hope your preparations for finals are going well. Please allow me a few moments of your time to share some brief updates with you.

**The NYS Budget**

You may have heard that the New York State budget process has concluded. There are two items in the budget that I want to touch on in this update: (1)

Direct Operating Support; and (2) TAP Gap (Tuition Assistance Program).

To summarize briefly, the Direct Operating Support (DOS) will increase by about \$114 million for all state operating campuses. You may know that last year, SUNY received \$163 million in DOS for state operating campuses, so this \$114 million is an addition to the continuing \$163 million (from last year). This is very good news for the state operating campuses as a whole. We will be working with SUNY to determine exactly what will be allocated to SUNY Fredonia.

Regarding the TAP, the amount of money that eligible students would receive from this program will increase from \$500 to \$1,000. Also, the income thresholds for eligibility were increased for all the categories.

I am grateful to everyone here on campus, SUNY, the New York State government, the Legislature, and Governor Hochul for efforts made in securing the funds indicated above.

### **President's Student Cabinet**

I have the special opportunity to work with a group of students during the academic year on the President's Student Cabinet. This group includes Student Association officers as well as each class president. I also appoint one or two students to serve on the cabinet. Next week, I will be holding my final meeting of the year with this talented group of students.

As you may know, many of these students will graduate in May, and I am looking forward to working with the incoming members next year. Let me use this opportunity to thank all the members of the President's Student Cabinet for the wonderful work they have done over the past academic year and especially this semester. My experience with these leaders has been overwhelmingly

positive, and I appreciate everything they are doing to represent the student body at SUNY Fredonia. Congratulations and very best wishes to all the members who are graduating this May.

### **Creating A New Tradition**

On the day of the eclipse, we had several activities that brought the campus and community together. It was fun and wonderful to see students, faculty, staff, and community members interact around the various activities that were planned. Since then, I have been wondering whether we could develop a new annual tradition on campus that would be entertaining, educational, inclusive, and safe. I am interested in exploring this with a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members. If you are interested in being a part of a working group to explore this, please submit your name to me at [president.office@fredonia.edu](mailto:president.office@fredonia.edu). I look forward to hearing from you.

### **Thank You for the Invitations**

This past Saturday, I was invited to three events that I attended - Relay for Life, Department of Communications Honors Celebration, and Ethos New Music Society. All of these events were well organized and very impactful. I appreciated the invitations and many thanks to all the students, faculty, and staff who worked to make these events possible. Congratulations to all the students who received awards at the Department of Communications Honors Celebration. Thanks to all the donors who made the awards possible.



*Ethos New Music Society Event*

Thank you for your time. Students, all the best on your final exams.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K

Stephen H. Kolison Jr., Ph.D.

President and Professor

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