

Buildings on the rise

The campus is undergoing a major transition to its infrastructure. Several new buildings including the science and technology building, the nursing building, Renaissance Hall and renovations to the Lily Gym have been made under Chancellor Anderson's Leadership. The Butler building is the next priority.

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Money for new buildings is either raised, sought through grant funding, or taken out through personal loans. Either way students' tuition is not increased because of new building projects, Dr. Young said. However, students' room and board fees are a way to help pay loans taking out for new dormitories.

"I was stuck deciding between FSU and Pembroke," said Brionna McKiver, an FSU freshmen. "When I toured the campus and saw the new building structures and the new dorm I decided to go with FSU."

Academic retention and graduation rates

Although FSU's academic programs are showing signs of improvement and new buildings are being added to the campus, FSU administrators continue

to battle with poor graduation rates.

According to "College Stats.org" FSU's graduation rate is at 36 percent.

It's not as bad as it appears on paper, Dr.

Young suggested. The problem with these statistics is that it only includes first time freshmen. We have a large student population that includes transfer students, who traditionally do very well. Dr. Young said the plan is to raise this percentage by at least about 12 to 14 percent in the near future.

While Chancellor Anderson acknowledged the graduation rate as being a problem, he ensures that steps are being implemented to fix the problem. We had to increase our admission and progression standards.

"Before I arrived, FSU was admitting many students who were not going to succeed in college," said Chancellor Anderson.

The university has demanded higher productivity from faculty in and out the classrooms. Everyone must continue to work on increasing retention and graduation rates because this is what determines what funds are made available. FSU also hired a new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Retention, Dr. Jason D. DeSousa.

Fund raising and Building relationships

While it may appear that FSU is making progress, according to Chancellor Anderson there is still work to be done. Chancellor Anderson recently announced a multi-year fund raising effort. He has plans to market FSU brands to audiences and regions that may not be familiar with the university.

If you ask Chancellor Anderson he would say that all of FSU's previous chancellors shared the same vision. However, if you ask some other individuals you may get a different response.

Dr. Jewell said she's been employed with FSU for over 18 years. I have never met a chancellor that really involves themselves with the students like "Chancellor Anderson" does. Dr. Jewell said. He does not mind referring to his background as a way to motivate students. "He really gets out and tries to mentor students." He comes with a different "skill set" than previous chancellors said, Mr. Taylor from FSU's business department.

"I love him" Biology Chair and Professor, Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem, said. I have been under a couple different chancellors, but never met one like him. He is committed to students' success. He is always present at student functions whether it is research presentations, or banquets.

Many programs have seemed to thrive under his leadership. Whether or not, Dr. Anderson directly credits himself for the recent success of the university, one thing is certain, the university was facing several problems before his arrival that needed immediate attention.

"I am pleased to say" that all these issues were addressed successfully," Anderson said.