President Mark B. Rosenberg sat down with Student Media before the Thanksgiving holiday to provide updates on important issues and projects going on this year and in the future.

There are a lot of changes coming up at the University: expansion, the health services merger, construction, new buildings and changes in state funding.

Here are the latest updates:

Fairgrounds

The Nov. 4 election brought a big win for the University — the fairgrounds.

“We won in almost every voting precinct in Miami-Dade County,” said Rosenberg.

Now with the county and the voters’ support, the University can move forward with finding an alternative site for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc. The deadline is set for March 2015.

Another matter to settle is what the cost of the relocation will be: Rosenberg has said in the past that he’d spend up to $50 million, but the cost of the relocation will be: County Fair and Exposition, Inc.

Once the University selects a suitable site and raises the money for the relocation, it must give the fair three years’ notice to move.

Ideally, the University would break ground on its expansion projects in the next three years, Rosenberg said, and if things don’t move quickly, then it would take up to six years to start building on the 64 acres adjacent to the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

The University plans to expand their programming and space in the science and technology fields by adding more labs, academic health center buildings, expand the College of Engineering and Computing and add more student housing and parking structures.

University ranks for graduates with least student debt

Most of our student population is local, meaning we have a high percentage of students living at home and requiring lower costs of living which ultimately drives down the borrowing levels.

- low tuition costs, local students opting to live with their parents, and high levels of financial aid.

Most of our student population is local, meaning we have a high percentage of students living at home and requiring lower costs of living, which ultimately drives down the borrowing levels,” Mendez said.

FIU provides grants and scholarships that total more than $150 million a year from institutional, state and federal sources.

Also, programs such as dual enrollment, which allows high school students to take college courses at no cost to them, save local students $38 million, and the University’s Graduate Success Initiative contribute to savings by guiding students to a timely graduation.

“We are able to offer a substantial amount of gifted aids for students with low-income households,” Mendez said. Gifted aids include State programs and institutional funds, such as Bright Futures scholarships, Florida Student Assistance Grant and University Grants.

“It is essential for [undergraduate] students and first-time borrowers to avoid student loans as much as possible.”

Students like Samantha, a freshman business major, is a local commuter who said she has not had to borrow student loans.

“I think my scholarships, such as Bright [Futures], are sufficient enough so I won’t have to take out student loans,” Barroso said.

Barroso said many of her commuter friends also have scholarships, so a low student debt at FIU is not a surprise to her.

On the other hand, there are students who have a difficult time escaping student loans, especially out-of-state students. Shekinah Harper, a senior broadcast media major, said she works two jobs while being a full-time student.

She has also been active in student organizations.

“I feel it makes things a lot more difficult when you have to balance being a full-time student...and then work full-time as well,” she said.

“It’s very hard being out-of-state because it’s more expensive,” Harper said. She said that the University should work harder and put more initiative towards out-of-state students.

Any type of debt such, as student loans, will have a high impact on student financial health, said Mendez.

See President, Page 2
Coast Guard plane brings 193 rare sea turtles to Florida

A Coast Guard plane touched down in Orlando at dusk Tuesday, hauling a cargo of the world’s rarest sea turtles, rescued by volunteers from the lethally chilled waters of Cape Cod Bay.

Weighing only 2 to 10 pounds, the young Kemp’s ridley sea turtles are among the first of an astounding “bucket” of the Massachusetts bay.

They’re “so small,” said Alyssa Hancock, a SeaCure volunteer who was aggrandizing into one of 101 banana boxes holding 193 turtles.

Turtle rescues happen every year in late fall in the Northeast, but for reasons not yet known what’s happening this year is “epic,” said one of the nearly two dozen volunteers passing boxes of turtles like a bucket brigade.

Key provincial capacity in Iowa may be about to fall to Islamic State

Islamic State fighters on Tuesday penetrated to the core of Ramadi, the provincial capital of Iraq’s largest province, prompting a local official to warn that the city was on the verge of falling to the extremists. Such a gain would be the Islamic State’s most significant victory in months.

“The governorate building has been nearly cut off,” said a Baghdad security official in direct contact with the official commanding police in the province where Ramadi lies. The official said that Islamic State forces had cut roads to the Iraq Army’s 8th Division base to the west and the road to Ramadi airport to the east.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Islamic State fighters launched their push to capture the long-contested town on Friday and have been battling government-aligned troops for control since. Ramadi is one of the last pockets of government control in Anbar, the province that abuts Baghdad on the west. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The model includes eight features common to all Florida state universities: employment rates, wages, the cost of degrees, graduation rates, grade point averages, the number of Pell grant recipients, the number of bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and math and the number of graduate degrees in STEM.

Two additional measures unique to each university make up the 10-metric system. For FIU, these measures are the percentage of bachelor’s degrees without excess hours and the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to minorities.

Although the university has stayed in the top threshold so far, schools that were at the bottom have applied aggressive tactics to work their way up, which could bring the Sunshine State further down in the rankings this year. The final scores will be announced by June.

The biggest areas of improvement are graduation rates and second-year retention rates, Rosenberg said.

“There could be some surprises,” he said. “We need to continue to show significant progress.”

When the Board of Trustees met in the summer, the Health Affairs Task Force was asked for plans to improve Health Affairs to work with the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and merge the Student Health Services to be part of FIU Health.

The merger is meant to make things easier for students, especially those with chronic diseases. The ultimate goal is that every student has health coverage.

Like any merger, there is always the possibility of new problems as downsizing.

“When making this building become the top priorities, it was planned to wrap around the FIU Stadium, similar to what other schools, like Florida State University, did.

This changed in 2009, when the administration decided that this building needed to be someplace very visible on campus – the center point of campus, and visible when entering.

“This is a destination building,” said Rosenberg. “It is aligned with performance funding. Hopefully it’ll help us improve.”

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FIU’s Health/Student Health Services Merger

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Protesters are fighting the wrong way

KRISTINE PEREZ
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The grand jury that focused on the Michael Brown vs. Darren Wilson case has reached the decision that the officer will not be indicted and the case will not go any further in court. The jurors do not believe that, according to the evidence presented, there is reason for Darren Wilson to be charged and prosecuted in court. Michael Brown’s family, shortly after, released a statement that read, “While we understand that many others share our pain, we ask that you channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change.”

While the family pleaded for only peaceful protests as they mourn their son’s life, the protesters in Ferguson had other plans. It was no surprise that the verdict was announced Monday as everyone geared up. Even with so much preparation, the city was not ready for what was to come once the verdict was presented. Regardless of what the outcome could have been, the city should have expected the unexpected and, sadly, the worst.

In the hours following the verdict, blocks in Ferguson, Missouri, were lit on fire, looted and vandalized. Although the National Guard and police force were there, they could not do much. These incidents and riots occurred because of police brutality; we clearly cannot expect police officers to feel they can use force to stop the riots in the streets without feeling they will be targeted next.

The riots that followed the announcement that Darren Wilson would not be indicted could have been predicted. After all, schools were closed for the remainder of the week, the National Guard was sent in and the decision was not presented until much later at night. The city thought of giving people enough time to leave work and arrive home safely; however, if this was done in order to keep the community safe, why wasn’t there more done to prevent the riots?

The city should have created a curfew and rather than waiting until late at night for the group of protesters to grow—the streets would have been empty. If the community had been told that anyone found on the street after a certain time would be arrested, there would not have been the terror of government officials not being able to do their job against an angry mob. Those who would be found on the streets would endure the consequences set beforehand.

Riots are exactly what took place and calling it anything other than that is mindless. Whether or not the people agreed with the decision, setting a community on fire will do absolutely nothing. In fact, destroying the community in which you live, your children go to school and your family has employment is only making matters worse. Fighting violence with violence will never result in peace and looting a liquor store will not bring attention to the real problem at hand.

Lighting an innocent person’s business into flames will not raise awareness for what occurred to Michael Brown. If the rioters want to create justice, they should find another way to do so.

Home is where the heart and turkey are

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In the fast-paced world we live in, it can be hard to take time out of our lives to spend time with family. Luckily, the holiday season here gives us time off to spend with the ones we love without having to worry about the stresses of our daily lives.

For some of us, the holidays are a drag because we have to deal with all of our annoying cousins and nitpicky aunts, but when you think back on those moments, they are going to be the memories that we will laugh about years down the road and will last a lifetime.

When we get older and move out of our parents’ house we can easily get caught up in the freedom to do basically whatever we want. It feels like a relief to be able to go out and stay out late without having to check in at home every hour. The reality is that, after a while of paying your own bills and surviving off of take-out food instead of a warm home-cooked meal, going home to see mom and dad is almost a relief instead of a hassle.

I have never looked forward to family dinners and holidays with the whole family around, but this year will be very different.

When I moved away from home, I couldn’t be more relieved. All I wanted to do was get away from my hometown and start over. All of my friends told me how much I would miss home and want to come back, but I never believed them. After being away for almost six months, I finally realize how much I miss not only the town I grew up in, but also my family who lives there. I have never looked forward to family dinners and holidays with the whole family around, but this year will be very different.

We easily take for granted the little things we have been given. Friends, family and a home-cooked meal from your mom are all easily overlooked when you have it in front of you everyday. Friends will come and go from your life, but your family is a group of people who will always be there no matter how much they irritate you at times. This holiday season, while you are enjoying a break from the hustle of life, don’t forget to appreciate the little things that life has given you because it can so easily be taken away without a moment’s notice.
Orange Your Neighborhood: 16 days of domestic violence awareness

FERGUSON, PAGE 1

UNITY IN THE FACE OF TRAGE...

Above: Students march chanting, “Hands up! Don’t shoot!” at the FIU Ferguson protest on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Center: Nicholas Augustin, a freshman studying mechanical engineering, wears a sign that reads, “I could be next - RIP MikeBrown” at the FIU Ferguson protest.

Top Right: Fatayana Brown, a freshman studying public relations, marches and chants with other students at the FIU Ferguson protest.

Center Right: Denzel Burnsides II, an alum and former student leader on campus, gives a speech at the protest urging students to get involved in social movements.

Bottom Right: Camry Moore, a sophomore studying psychology, marches with students at the FIU Ferguson protest. The protest was organized by the NAACP and the FIU Dreamers Defenders.

JEFFREY PIERRE
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The decision whether to indict officer Darren Wilson, the Ferguson police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown on Aug. 9, was released and presented Monday night by the Saint Louis County prosecutor Robert P. McCulloch.

After months of hearing testimony and hours of deliberation, the grand jury — composed nine whites and three blacks — concluded that there wasn’t enough evidence to indict Wilson on the charges. A rarity, officials say. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2010, U.S. attorneys prosecuted 162,000 federal cases — grand juries declined to return an indictment in 11 of them.

The details of the hearing — alongside McCulloch’s direct role and rationale for the decision — escalated tensions in Ferguson even further. In some areas, the city is still boiling over the shooting of Brown. Wilson’s testimony, describing Brown as a “Hulk Hogan” figure and himself as a helpless “5-year-old,” have also been the source of backlash.

“The only way I can describe it, it looked like a demon,” Wilson said, recounting the events of Aug. 9 to the grand jury. “That’s how angry he looked.”

The failure to bring charges against Wilson was expected by many, but lead to series of protest and demonstrations held across the United States.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, students at the University marched in solidarity with Ferguson. At the rally, members of the FIU chapter of the Dream Defenders and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People led the demonstration that started in front of the Graham Center ballrooms.

Laura Hernández, the vice president of the National Organization for Women at FIU, says the protest was peaceful and under campus police supervision, but she was uneasy regarding a University employee response. “A student had chalked ‘RIP Mike Brown’ in front of the demonstration and around 16-20 minutes later, FIU employees mopped off the chalking,” Hernández said. “A lot of the students demonstrating found this disrespectful seeing as how random companies chalk all over FIU seeking students to fill in jobs and are never erased.”

Hernández adds that she noted more non-participants recording the demonstration rather than actually participating, another thing she found troubling.

Later in the day, University students joined other protesters in the downtown area. The march was peaceful demonstrations; however, Hernández said a car nearly struck a demonstrator and police made one arrest.

“Earlier, the police monitoring the demonstration had tackled and arrested two participants who had crossed a ‘police line’ which was on public property,” she said.

“One of those arrested included the brother of Trayvon Martin’s [family] lawyer.”

Jeremy Shaw, the brother of Martin’s lawyer, and Phillip Brian Agnew were charged with failure to obey a lawful order and arrested on the steps of the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building in downtown Miami.

Shanequa Castle, a second year African diaspora studies major, fell into a leadership role with the Dream Defenders, an organization for women.

“I just want to make sure for us to go on basis black people, not just this one,” Velasco said, adding that most people are unaware of how many women and men are affected by domestic violence.

According to USNC, one out of three American women experience domestic violence at least once in their lifetime. An estimated 1.3 million women suffer domestic violence each year. The statistics surrounding the issue are because, according to Velasco, because of the statistics "We try, not to be aggressive."
Orange Your Neighborhood: 16 days of domestic violence awareness

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, domestic violence affects about 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in their lifetime. Worldwide, the numbers fall to one out of four women and one out of seven men. An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner. Only 25 percent of these cases are reported to the police.

The statistics surrounding domestic violence are sometime hard to account for because, according to Velasco, men who can be victims rarely report the crime out of embarrassment; the same applies to women in a relationship with their abuser.

Velasco says with so many affected by domestic violence, an overwhelming subject in itself, information and awareness is key.

"We try, not to be aggressive, but to lay out the facts," Velasco said.

"I just want to make sure people understand it is not ok for stuff like that to happen as usual because it impacts so many of us — not just brown people but everyone in America," Castle said.

Diego Saldano Rojas, a staff writer for FIUSM and contributor for WLRN, contributed to this report.
The Panthers could not pull out a win in their final game of the year, falling 17-14 to the North Texas University Mean Green. The Panthers entered as winners of five straight games against North Texas before the loss.

The Mean Green got things going with a 54-yard touchdown run by running back Reggie Pegram on the second play from scrimmage. After a punt by the Panthers, the Mean Green marched right back down the field for another score. This one, a 4-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Andrew McNulty to tight end Marcus Smith.

Down 14-0, the Panthers needed a spark. They got it in the form of a 74-yard touchdown return by cornerback Richard Leonard. It was Leonard’s fourth touchdown of the year and his first score on a return.

The teams traded punts until late in the second quarter. After quarterback Alex McGough threw an interception to give the Mean Green the ball deep in Panther territory, cornerback Jeremiah McKinnon snatched it back with a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown. The score evened the game 14-14 headed into halftime.

The third quarter was uneventful. After back-and-forth punting for most of the period, Mean Green kicker Trevor McGough connected on a 19-yard field goal to give his team a 17-14 lead, a score that held up through the final whistle.

The story of the afternoon was the lack of offense for the Panthers. They only managed 147 yards of total offense. McGough had one of his worst games in his freshman campaign. He was 11 of 25 through the air for 56-yards and three interceptions. The run game was slightly more effective. Running back Anthon Samuel rushed for 89-yards on 14 carries.

The Panthers finished the 2014 season 4-8 overall and 3-5 in conference play. That’s a three game improvement from a disappointing 1-11 2013 season.

For 43 minutes of game time, it was as much fun as you could have on an NBA Tuesday in November.

On one end, Steph Curry was doing his Golden State Warriors happy dance, seemingly surprising even himself with his 3-point sizzle. On the other, the Miami Heat were mixing a blend of kids and veterans so intoxicating it practically made you forget that Dwyane Wade was missing his seventh consecutive game with a strained left hamstring.

It was 3-pointers raining, dunks rattling, intensity reigning.

Ultimately, it was Warriors, Heat 94, 11-8 at AmericanAirlines Arena.

The only exhale came in the waning minutes, when the Warriors simply too good. And when it was over, Warriors coach Steve Kerr called it, “probably the biggest challenge we’ve faced all year.”

Of course, you had to hang it on having Curry on his side.

“He’s unreal,” Kerr said, with Curry closing with 40 points, shooting 12 of 19 from the field, 8 of 11 on 3-pointers. No, this was not a repeat of last week’s hapless blowout loss to another high-octane Western Conference power, when the Heat fell to the Los Angeles Clippers, even if the score indicated otherwise.

This was Warriors up nine early, then Heat up, then Warriors by seven in the third quarter and then tied midway through the fourth quarter.

This was Kerr cycling through his trove of riches he inherited this offseason in his debut as an NBA coach, going from the inside passing of Andrew Bogut to the scoring of Klay Thompson to the shooting of Curry.

And it was Heat coach Erik Spoelstra injecting the youthful energy of James Ennis and Shabazz Napier, while also feeding the offense of Chris Bosh.

“We just couldn’t sustain it,” Spoelstra said, “got caught on tough positions.”

Ultimately, we’ve got to find a way to sustain.

For Bosh, that’s what was so disappointing. There was a huge statement to be made. Ultimately, though, there was the failure of an 11-point fourth quarter by the Heat.

For some reason, we just forgot everything. Bosh said of playing so well for so long, and then not nearly well enough at the finish. “For some reason, we just forget our offensive.”

I don’t know why. I think we took ourselves out of everything.”

Bosh led the Heat with 26 points and nine rebounds.

“We had the formula,” he said. “We knew what we were going right. It’s crazy.”

Then Curry stepped up. And then it was over.

“Tours have successful free throws, making the Heat cut it to 13 late in the game and then take yourself out of it.”

Luis Deng added 16 points for the Heat and Mario Chalmers 14. Thompson added 24 points for the Warriors.

But that’s when the Warriors’ 3-point shooting proved too much, conversions by Thompson and Curry staking them to a 104-95 lead with 3:29 to play. Curry revealed after the game he put up 100 3-pointers at the arena a day earlier as part of a Christmas commercial shoot.

The Heat went into the fourth quarter down 91-86, with Curry stepping up with 12 points in the third period.

A wild first half that saw the Warriors initially jump to their nine-point lead and then the Heat move to their 16-point advantage ended with the Heat up 62-61. The Heat led 36-30 at the end of the opening period, their highest-scoring quarter of the season, with Golden State just 1 of 6 from the foul line over the opening 12 minutes.

At times it was Udonis Haslem rebounding or Josh McRoberts facilitating or Shawn Williams matching Curry’s 3-pointers, with the Heat 10 of 23 on 3-pointers.

And midway through the fourth quarter it was tied 95-95.

With guard Shannon Brown released to make room for Monday’s addition of shot-blocking center Hassan Whiteside, and with Wade still out, Ennis played as the Heat’s first shooting guard off the bench Tuesday.

With Andersen out, Haslem played as the Heat’s first center off the bench.

The Heat now have a four-day Thanksgiving break before resuming play Sunday against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden.

With guard Andersen after he severely strained his ankle in Sunday’s home victory over the Charlotte Hornets.

The Warriors initially thought they would be without Bogut, but after he suffered a facial bruise during Sunday’s road victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder, but, despite fluid buildup that limited his overnight sleep, he was able to start.

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The swim team has jumped into an impressive start (4-0) and are only looking better as the season goes on, thanks in part to Italian freshman swimmer, Silvia Scalia. When asked why Scalia chose to attend FIU, she said, “I chose FIU because of its reputation as a high-level balance of studies and sports. FIU will allow me to reach my highest swimming and academic goals.”

Such goals are already coming to fruition. According to FIUsports.com, “Scalia comes to FIU as a multiple Junior Representative for Italy, including participation in the European Junior Championships, the Milan Trophy and the Multination Games. At the 2013 Summer National Youth Championships, she won the gold medal in the 50 backstroke, clocking a personal best long course time of 29.11.”

All season, Scalia has been clocking impressive times on backstroke. On Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Mizou Invite hosted by the University of Missouri in Columbia, she broke the school record when leading off the 100 backstroke in the 400 medley relay. Look for Scalia to continue performing in the Mizou Invite Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22.

Against Illinois State University, she received an NCAA B qualifying time of 1:58.77 to win the 200 backstroke. This broke her previous record when she swam Florida Atlantic University on Oct. 4. This time is the best in C-USA, and ranks 29th in the NCAA.

Her strong performance against Illinois State would reward her. On Nov. 11, Scalia was named the Conference USA swimmer of the week. This is her second time receiving this award.

If the Panthers feed off this hot start, they will have their paws on the C-USA Championship.
SGC talks student leadership summit, Teens for Jeans, appoints new members

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Next year, University student leaders will have the opportunity to network with professionals, build communication skills, and workshop social responsibility and event management with faculty and staff.

On Monday, Nov. 24, Larissa Adams, advisor of the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council, discussed the annual FIU Student Leadership Summit.

“I highly encourage all members to attend,” Adams said. “It’s a great opportunity to work on your leadership skills.”

The event is on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with registration opening next week.

Vice President of SGC-BBC, Camille Williams, and Arts & Sciences Senator, Faedrah Mahotiere, asked students to help inspire and motivate children in pediatric wards suffering from cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

“This year, University students will be cruising to Haiti right from the Biscayne Bay Campus. Rather than a paid vacation, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will be hosting a Cruise to Haiti themed charity event for the least fortunate children of Haiti,” Professor Bill Hansen and his catering management class have partnered with the Timoun Lakay Foundation, a non-profit organization that serves the cause.

The event will consist of an all-you-can-eat buffet and a open bar with a price of $20 to help fundraise.

“We’re trying to get these kids motivated to keep fighting,” Mahotiere said. “Anything you can give helps them.”

The success of the event will rely on the students, but an event. However, he said catering is not the most important part of the project.

The success of the event will rely on the collaboration of not only the students, but the entire University student body.

“Some of these kids are always in the hospital and don’t get to leave very often,” said Mahotiere. “We’re trying to get these kids motivated to keep fighting.” Mahotiere said. “Anything you can give helps them.”

SGC-BBC also appointed three new members.

Pouala Bayron, a broadcast senior with a minor in communication arts and criminal justice, was selected as a new justice.

“I realized I needed to become more active in school,” said Bayron, who wanted to join a prestigious community and inspire and motivate children in pediatric wards suffering from cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

“This is beneficial because it allows Sylvain-Spence to personally take the money to Haiti. Whatever we make actually ends up even scholarships for the children,” Hansen said.

Hansen has planned charity events with different foundations - some include the Bnai Zion Church.

Hansen worked really hard to put this event together. "It’s a great event to come to and it’s going to be really interesting, and it’s for a great cause," she said. "These people worked really hard to put this together."

In celebration of Thanksgiving, SGC-BBC held a members’ potluck on Wednesday, Nov. 26, instead of their monthly General Meeting. Student members are encouraged to bring something unique, and to celebrate and relax for a change.

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