In this issue you will find some recent updates on a number of projects and services underway in Administration and Finance.

- As a part of recent agreements with Adobe and Microsoft, faculty and staff will now be able to download the *Adobe Creative Suite* and *Microsoft Office* for free on their personally owned computers and mobile devices. Please click [here](#) for details regarding the Adobe Creative Suite and [here](#) for details about Microsoft Office. These software titles are intended for home use on personal devices, and should not be downloaded on any University computers. If you have any questions about the home use program, please contact the TAC at 231-591-4822 or toll free at 877-779-4822.

- We are pleased to be able to announce the rollout of a new, additional health insurance plan referred to as a *HSA (Health Savings Account) PPO plan*, also sometimes referred to as a high deductible plan. This plan will be available, in addition to other existing Priority Health plans for most staff groups during the May 2015 open enrollment. I am very appreciative of the significant amount of work done by our Human Resource staff and the Health Care Committee on working through the numerous design issues for this new plan.

- Many of you know that we are in the process of creating a *new Master Plan for the Big Rapids campus*. We held 22 stakeholder input sessions during the summer and fall 2014. I am pleased to be able to share that the first draft plan is available on the university’s web site by clicking on the following link: [http://www.ferris.edu/master-planning](http://www.ferris.edu/master-planning). I hope you will be able to take some time to look at the plan and share with us any thoughts or input on this draft. Please send me an email note to scobyj@ferris.edu.

- We have a very ambitious list of *facility projects* in the queue for this summer. Some of the ones I think you might be most interested in include the following:
  - Renovations, new technology, and/or new furniture in Academic classrooms and laboratories and other Academic spaces in Starr 108, 110, 114, 126, 137, 138, 139, 202, 206, 214, 216, 235, 322, 324.
  - Automotive building room 118, mechanical system upgrade and air conditioning.
  - Business building rooms 111, 121, and 124.
  - Refreshing or doing some touchup painting in classroom and lab that were renovated 6-10 years ago as part of an earlier round of classroom and laboratory renovations.
  - Helen Ferris Hall is scheduled for demolition during the summer. Mike Hughes and his staff is in the process of finalizing the site redevelopment plan for the north end of the quad.
  - Prakken building was built in 1955 and has not seen any significant renovations in over 25 years. As a result we are planning to do some selected renovations this summer including a complete renovation of all four restrooms, upgrading the entrances, refreshing the hallways and stairwells and selected improvements to other
spaces in the building. We are also reviewing the mechanical systems in an effort to try to improve some of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems in the building.

- Cramer Hall was constructed in 1969 and the student room built in desks, built in closets and bathrooms are in need of some renovations. This renovation of the student rooms on floors 2-11 is planned to start in May or June 2015. This will be a wonderful upgrade for our students who call Cramer Hall their home during the academic year.
- We are taking the pre-construction planning for the Swan Annex renovation to the next level in an effort to be poised for Capital Outlay action by the legislature and the Governor. The goal is to launch the next phase of this planning this spring.
- A decade ago the university did a complete Facility Condition Assessment to analyze and document the condition of each of our facilities. This has been very helpful to make decisions about where to invest for capital improvements and which buildings we should further evaluate for demolition. Given that is has been a decade and much has occurred on the Big Rapids campus during that period of time we will be doing a new Facility Condition Assessment for buildings that the university owns on the Big Rapids campus and in Grand Rapids.

✓ In our ongoing efforts to have excellent relationships with the City, the Board of Trustees recently approved an easement to allow the **City to install a new water main** from the water tower east of the grounds facility on the south end of campus and to run that new water main across our south property line on the south side of the Grounds building all the way west to 205th Avenue. This new water line is part of their Master Plan for infrastructure allowing them to eventually connect this south end water tower with the water tower on the north side of Perry Avenue near the Holiday Inn. The current plan is the City would complete this new water main project by October 2016.

✓ One of the big topics evolving as part of the Master Plan development project is to **build some new housing**. To help us identify the kinds of facilities that we need for the future we are finalizing the contract with a firm that specializes in helping institutions of higher education envision their housing needs for the future.

✓ We will begin a project this summer to **add three or four new buildings to the current Finch Court at West Campus Apartments**. These buildings will go on the northeast side of Finch Court just south of the West Campus Community Center. We look forward to completing this project in time for students to enjoy these new units for the fall of 2016.

✓ As part of this bigger picture of housing facility options for our students we have removed **Taggart Hall** from the available inventory for room sign-up for the fall. Once the housing envisioning process advances to the point where the future direction for the redevelopment of housing on that part of the campus is clear, we will proceed with the demolition of Taggart Hall and seek Board of Trustee approval to build some new housing facilities in that general location.
The **MyFSU system replacement project** is underway and is on track for a system conversion in June of 2015. Stay tuned for more details on this project.

You may have seen numerous communications from IT regarding our current planning efforts for the **next University Plan for IT** spanning 2015-2018. We would be very pleased to hear from you regarding your thoughts on the effectiveness of what has been accomplished through the 2012-2015 University Plan for IT and would also greatly appreciated hearing your input into the development of the next plan. There are two online surveys available for your participation and can be accessed at the following links. If you have not already done so please take a few minutes to participate in either or both of these surveys. [http://currentplan.questionpro.com/](http://currentplan.questionpro.com/) and [http://nextplan.questionpro.com/](http://nextplan.questionpro.com/).

Some of you may have heard about the current review we are doing of the **Finance unit** on campus. Our Finance staff is doing some very good work for the university and we are simply taking a look to see if there are some small ways to continue to improve in what we do to provide the most effective services possible to the campus.

*I greatly appreciate all the work by our staff and student employees, who make the difference in the projects and services we provide for you. I want to extend a big thank you to the many dedicated employees in Administration and Finance who work hard each day, throughout the year to provide quality services to the campus!*

**Jerry L. Scoby**

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Vice President for Administration and Finance