I hope your summer is off to a great start! In this issue you will find some recent updates on a number of projects and services either underway or in the planning stages in Administration and Finance.

✓ **Helen Ferris Hall** has actually been razed and the site work has begun. The site work when completed in early August will include new sidewalks where we anticipate pedestrians will walk between the Arts & Sciences Complex and the University Center, the inclusion of new exterior site lighting and limited work along North Campus Drive knowing that our Master Plan calls for closing that part of Campus Drive over the next five years.

✓ **Cramer Hall** was built in 1969, and since that time student expectations have changed dramatically. We are in the middle of a significant renovation in Cramer to add doors on bedrooms for added student privacy, removing very worn and dated built in desks and closets and replacing them with moveable furniture, and doing some modest refreshing of bathroom vanities. These improvements will be ready for students when they return to the halls in August.

✓ The **steam and condensate and domestic hot water lines** buried in the tunnel between the Student Recreation Center and the Music building are beyond their useful life and will be replaced this summer. The site fencing was put up in late June and the actual construction work is underway. The current schedule for this project calls for the site to be restored, including a new sidewalk on the east side of Campus Drive by early to mid-September.

✓ Given three different **water main breaks** near the Bond Halls and Bond Circle. The Physical Plant is going to have a large section of this main replaced before students return. Please excuse our mess while this area is torn up.

✓ While prior issues of The Scoop have noted the **Swan Annex renovation project** we have not addressed parking in that general area in prior issues. With the expanded footprint of the Swan Annex project the number of parking spaces south of the Swan Annex will be decreased by approximately 100. The current plan is to try to incorporate additional parking up the hill to the south of that site when apartment buildings H and K are removed in the summer of 2016.

✓ The university’s work with Brailsford and Dunlavey continues toward the creation of a **Housing Vision** for the university. These deliberations, informed in part by a student survey administered by Brailsford and Dunlavey during the spring semester, have resulted in challenging our thinking in two or three different ways. One such example is the general direction articulated in our Campus Master Plan which would result in no housing on the north end of campus as existing residence halls are razed over time. Based on student input we are revisiting this campus design issue.
✓ Our IT staff is working with the Disability Services Office to install *Clockworks*, a new application to meet the complete scheduling and data management software needs designed to meet the specialized needs of disability service departments at colleges and universities. It simplifies and centralizes the scheduling of appointments, workshops, exams, rooms and resources with a focus on ease of use and flexibility. This system will be hosted in the cloud with an integration into the Banner student information system. This implementation is in its final stages of completion.

✓ Our IT staff is also in the process of implementing *Eaglesoft Dental System Upgrade* for use in our dental clinic. This patient management system serves a dual purpose for the running of the dental clinic and for the educational purposes of our students. This upgrade, which will include the latest release of the application software, will be operating in a virtual server environment.

✓ With the 2012-15 University Plan for IT we added *four temporary positions in IT* for three years ending June 30, 2015. We understand there are some rumors across campus about these positions going away. The intention of this bullet is simply to indicate that given the timing of the next University Plan for IT has been delayed until October, we have committed to continue the existing IT temporary positions through mid-December 2015 to allow time to develop and put the next University Plan for IT in place. The future of each of these temporary positions will depend upon the scope of the next Plan and available funding within the Plan.

✓ The *PC replacement* for 2015-16 is underway with the summer 2015 scope including the replacement of targeted PCs in Administration and Finance, General Counsel and Governmental Relations, Student Affairs, and University Advancement and Marketing. The Academic Affairs implementation is scheduled to be completed during the fall semester. The combined volume across all divisions for this round of PC replacements is over 300 computers.

✓ The University Strategic Plan and the Administration and Finance Strategic Plan both articulate a need to do more as a university in the area of *sustainability*. The scope of this for our division for the coming year is to develop and recommend a philosophy statement for the institution regarding sustainability and to identify some practical, low cost ways that we can make progress toward more sustainable practices at the institution. We are planning to launch a task force in September that would convene over the few months following to develop recommendations on the items noted above. If this is a topic that you have a lot of interest in, knowledge of, or know of someone who does please send me an email note outlining the nature of your experience, expertise, and/or interest and we will gladly consider your nomination as we develop the task force membership with the university perspective in mind. We also plan to include a representative or two from Kendall College of Art and Design.

✓ One of the annual processes that the academic area goes through each fall is the hiring of new regular and adjunct faculty. The reason for noting this here is to encourage departments
that are bringing in new faculty in August to please submit key requests as early as possible so that we can have keys available for academic departments and incoming faculty in a timely way. Thank you for your consideration!

✔ As many of you know our Priority Health Plans for July 1, 2015 saw an overall 7.2% increase, although the actual increase varies by plan and by family tier status (single, two person, and family). Our benefit consultants have identified the main reasons for the increase at this level is due to an increase in the number of large claims on our plans, higher hospital claims, higher Rx claims costs, increased emergency room use, and increased use of urgent care facilities rather than primary care physicians. Thank you for your efforts in making informed choices to get quality care in the most cost effective way.

✔ I am pleased to report that 62 employees signed up for the new Priority Health HSA plan effective July 1.

✔ The university offers us many great benefits as part of our overall salary and benefit packages. One benefit that I do not talk about very often is our Employee Assistant Program that is available to employees and their dependents to provide very helpful counseling on many different life challenges. If this confidential counseling service is something that you or your dependent(s) could benefit from please take advantage of this no cost confidential opportunity. For more information on how to take advantage of this benefit please go to our Human Resources website at http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/human/Benefits/healthandwellness/Encompass/encompass.htm.

✔ Given the Between Chapters coffee shop in FLITE has been losing money, and there are great alternatives in the new University Center, the Between Chapters shop will be closed.

✔ Hold the date! Our fourth annual Administration and Finance Thank You Tailgate party will be on Saturday, September 12 before our home opener football game. I hope to see our A&F employees and their families there!

I am very appreciative of all the work by our staff and student employees, who make the difference in the projects and services we provide for you every day. 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