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

- Our IT staff is actively engaged in the **PC replacement process** for the 2014-15 cycle. The model used over the last couple of years has been to do the non-academic replacements over the summer and to do the academic division replacements during the fall semester. IT has worked with units in the non-academic divisions and have ordered the computer replacements with a target deliver date of June 20. The 105 new desktop and laptop computers are scheduled to be installed between June 20 and August 8.

- IT will work with the academic units starting in early September on the academic PC replacements. The plan is to have a target delivery date of the last week of October, with the new computers being installed between October 27 and December 23.

- We have shared with you in past issues of *The Scoop* that we are going to launch a process this fall to update our **Campus Master Plan**. The update in this issue is simply to inform you that the process behind the scenes is continuing for the selection of the professional services firm to assist us in this process. The list of vendors has been reduced to four firms, we are in the process of seeking formal proposals from those four firms, and will move through the selection process during the month of July.

- The recent indication is that we have made up one of the weeks that we lost due to the difficult winter and then the spring rains on the **University Center Project**. At this point we are approximately three weeks behind schedule. Mike Hughes and the Christman Company continue to believe that strategies that they are putting in place will make up these other three weeks and that the project will be substantially complete in December for an on-time opening in January.

- The temporary road installed from the University Center to Ives Street, and the **new road** that will be the permanent location that will connect from the University Center circle drive northeast to Ives Street at Magnolia are being redeveloped. The new ongoing road is taking shape by the week, with most of the new curb in place. The current plan is that the temporary road would be closed and the new road would open in late June. Depending on the weather the opening of this new road may initially be gravel or it may have the first layer of asphalt when it opens in late June.

- The **new permanent outdoor stage** to service the Quad is being constructed and will be available for campus use starting in August. The foundations have already been poured and the concrete deck for the new stage should be completed within the next two weeks.

- There will be some exciting **new dining venues** in the University Center. The two adjacent signature facilities will be on the upper level overlooking the Quad. One side of this new venue will be an all you care to eat venue, much like the Rock, and the other side will be a food court.
format with retail stations. The new name for these two venues is The Quad Café. Both dining venues will offer outstanding quality, and delicious food, and offer a carry out option not available at the Rock.

- Each summer our Housing and Residence Life staff and our Physical Plant staff collaborate to complete many *repairs and improvements in our housing* as part of our efforts to offer attractive housing facilities and to prepare for the return of students in August. The single most frequently requested item from our students as a housing amenity is robust wireless service. As a result of that request the university has been spending several hundred thousand dollars over multiple years to improve the wireless in our residence halls and in West Campus Apartments. Major improvements are being made this summer to that residential wireless system. Another request from students has been to expand the laundry facilities in Cramer Hall. It is our single, largest residence hall on campus and again given the student feedback we are adding an additional laundry facility in Cramer.

  **Additional improvements in our housing** facilities this summer include floor coverings, paint, lighting, and front desk renovations in North and South Bond Halls and in Puterbaugh Hall. Additional improvements in West Campus Apartments, in addition to the wireless noted above, include replacing 50 furnaces, adding air conditioning to 12 apartments and installing new carpeting, doors, lighting, and applying fresh paint.

- A number of changes to our *HealthyU Wellness Program* are being rolled out effective July 1. These changes are being put in place for three reasons. The first reason is that we have received some feedback from a number of employees that the current system is a little too cumbersome in terms of recording activities. Secondly, employees have indicated that the online mini courses would be more helpful if they were electives rather than requirements. The third reason for making some changes is to try to continue to increase the number of participants in the HealthyU Wellness Program. We believe it is critical to continue to encourage healthy lifestyles among our employees, to invest in the health of our employees, and to help control health care costs for employees and the university. For more information on the HealthyU Wellness Program changes, and for dates to sign up for the program, please contact Human Resources.

- There are currently 698 employees at the university covered by one of our *Priority Health plans*. Through the great work of these 698 employees in terms of being good consumers of health care; the work of our Health Care Committee; Tamie Grunow, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and her staff; and Priority Health’s cost control measures, I am very pleased to share that our Priority Health plans will have no overall premium increase again this year. As a result of needing to change the relationships between Ferris 2 and Ferris 3 health plans, some of the individual self-funded premiums across the three Priority Health plans have gone up and some will go down with the overall net change being zero. The net effect of another year of no increase in the premiums, and the university contributions per employee group, 696 of the 698 employees will either see no increase in their payroll deduction for health insurance next fiscal year, and many will actually see decreases in those payroll deductions. Given the experiences we had in the several years prior to 2013, we are very pleased with these results. Congratulations and thank you!

- As you know we have instituted numerous improvements to our *IT Security Systems* since the major incident we had in July 2013. Another step being taken by the university is to add
two new administrative positions in IT Security to help strengthen our security systems. The university recently funded these new positions and the searches are underway. Another step being taken is to either create or revise some IT security related policies for the institution. Stay tuned for more information on this including the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft policies once they are posted for campus review.

✓ Through the assistance of Pat Briggs, Associate Vice President for Finance, his staff, and the assistance of an off-campus investment advisor we were able to refinance our 2005 bonds to take advantage of the continuing low interest rates in the market. This refinancing was completed at the end of April and I am very pleased to share with you that this process resulted in over $1.7M of savings on a net present value basis during the remaining life of that bond issue.

✓ Each year Admissions and other parts of the university host thousands of prospective students and their families. One of the things that our division does each summer in partnership with Admissions is to take the exact same **Admissions tour** provided to prospective students and their families. The purpose of this is to see the campus, the same sidewalks, the same buildings, the same route, the same everything including the condition of our buildings and grounds as shown to prospective students. Each year this results in the creation of many work orders to help improve the campus not only for our admissions efforts but also for those of us who live, learn and work here every day. This collaboration has helped us achieve many improvements to the campus. I applaud this wonderful collaboration between Admissions and the Physical Plant. Well done!

*I am very appreciative of our staff, 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 regular, temporary and student 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