May 2013

The Scoop
on Projects and Services in Administration and Finance

This May issue is being distributed at the end of another successful academic year for the university. Following are some updates for you on current things we are doing to serve the campus.

- The Administration and Finance division is pleased to announce and welcome Bruce Borkovich as the new Director of Public Safety. Bruce spent the last six years as an assistant team leader of the Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team here in Michigan and prior to that served the State of Michigan through law enforcement in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Bruce and his wife Vickie are in the process of moving to Big Rapids from the Mt. Pleasant area. Please join me in welcoming Bruce to Ferris State University.

- The fence has started to go up around the Masselink and Carlisle demolition site. There are a number of specific updates related to this project that you may find helpful.

  - One topic our campus is always interested in is parking and there will be some changes to parking during the renovation project, and some will extend indefinitely even after the new building is open. The parking along Campus Drive between Rankin and Carlisle will be eliminated permanently. The current parking lot 1 on the north east side of Swan will be closed for the summer, however much of it will be reopened for the fall to be used during the construction. The new parking lot east of the renovated University Center will open late in 2014 as the renovation project is completed.

  - With the closure of the Rankin Center some individuals on campus will be looking for alternate spaces to hold their meetings and events. In collaboration between Administration and Finance, Academic Affairs, and others a list of available spaces on campus for meetings or events has been assembled and can be found on the website at: http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/physical/renovation/pdfs/TemporaryMeetingEventSpaces.pdf.

  - With the closure of Rankin Center immediately after commencement and the closure of Westview Dining the former Center Ice, rebranded as Westside Café, will open in August of 2013 and will remain open through December of 2014.

- The space that the university has leased in the mall south of town that includes Save-a-Lot and Sears is ready for the temporary relocation of our Bookstore. Barnes and Noble is operating in the current location through May 24, and then will open in the new location on June 3.

- During the upcoming summer months Kara Pellerito, Energy Conservation Coordinator, and other members of our Physical Plant team will be making additional energy conservation measures to further conserve on utilities. The focus this summer will be on new light fixtures and water consumption reduction measures. If the crew replacing light fixtures comes through your part of the campus please be patient with them during the short period of disruption while they replace the old light fixtures for more energy efficient ones. The primary buildings for this focus include: Heavy Equipment, West Commons, Pickell Hall and Henderson Hall.
One of the by-products of our energy conservation efforts and energy system improvements through building demolitions and new construction, is that we are in need of lower capacity boilers at the central energy plant. The existing boilers are so large that it is very difficult to run them at a low enough volume during the low load seasons, primarily during the summer. A **central heating plant boiler project** will start in May and be done in late 2013 to install two new small boilers to give us greater optimization of equipment in the central heating plant to meet our heating and cooling needs across campus.

Our Health Care Committee made up of representatives from employee groups on the **Priority Health and MUCH health plans** has done an absolutely outstanding job of reviewing our existing plans and recommending to the President’s Council some refinement to our plans to eliminate plans with lower utilization, consolidate to one carrier, which will be Priority Health, and to make these changes effective July 1. Please look for the numerous opportunities over the next month to learn more about these changes. One of the amazing results of these changes will be a year for our staff in Big Rapids, at Kendall, and state wide, with no increase in their net payroll deduction for health insurance and some will actually see reductions in those reductions. I extend a big thank you and job well done to the members of the Health Care Committee.

The **Ferris State University Wellness Plan** called “Healthy U” is wrapping up its first year and we are currently in the open enrollment window for 2013-14. To sign up please go to [https://www.assethealth.com/ferrisstateuniversity](https://www.assethealth.com/ferrisstateuniversity). Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of the fun of this program and to continue to do all that you can to personally invest in your own health and well being.

In the spring of 2011 the university made a commitment to start a new **shuttle bus service** from Grand Rapids to Big Rapids in an effort to help individuals in the greater Grand Rapids area have access to the Ferris State University education here on the Big Rapids campus. This was offered as a two year pilot program and I am pleased to be able to inform you that the program has been a success, with modest growth in its utilization each year and we will be offering it again in the fall. Based on some input from student riders we are adding a fourth daily run when the service resumes in August.

The **PC replacement program for 2013-14** will be launched very soon with an accelerated approach for the coming year. In general the approach will be to focus on the non-academic units over the summer and the academic units will be completed in the fall of 2013. This should result in the deployment of these replacement units several months earlier than was experienced in the last cycle.

Many areas of the campus have been focusing on ways that we can help our students graduate more quickly and to do so with less debt. One of the strategies being implemented by our Finance and Business Operations areas is to roll out a new **Touchnet Payment Plan** offering for the fall 2013. This will create more payment plan options for families as they deal with the issues of how to pay for the outstanding Ferris State University education. To learn more about this please contact Erin Diehm at diehme@ferris.edu.
Do you have a question about a project or service we are working on or provide in Administration and Finance? Please feel free to send Jackie Warner an email note regarding suggested topics for future issues of *The Scoop*.

*As you know, our people make the difference in the projects and services we provide for you. My hat is off to the many dedicated employees in Administration and Finance who work hard each day throughout the entire year to provide quality services to the campus!*

Jerry L. Scoby  
Vice President for Administration and Finance