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

✓ 60, 59, 58, 57, …we are in the countdown to completing the University Center renovation and having it open for campus in early January. We are convinced that you are going to like the amazing range of meetings rooms, the awesome dining venues, outstanding lounges and other informal gathering places, and a two story bookstore. The current tentative date for opening of the doors for the campus is set for January 5, 2015. Those that will be working on the building will have access starting in December to get ready for the opening.

✓ We recently awarded the construction management services work on the Swan Renovation project to Granger Construction. This is the next step in the university’s efforts to be ready, and to demonstrate readiness to the State of Michigan as President Eisler works diligently in Lansing to obtain State Capital Outlay funding for this renovation project.

✓ You may recall from an earlier Scoop that we hired Clark Construction to do some contract project management work for the university. Some of the key accomplishments through this approach so far include:
  - Renovation of 12 classrooms in the Starr building
  - Renovation of ASC 1015
  - Renovation of Cramer Hall to create an additional laundry room for students
  - Bishop Hall 209 technology upgrade
  - FLITE 4th floor door installation
  - FLITE skylight leak repair
  - Pharmacy laboratory upgrades
  - Pharmacy chiller replacement and mechanical system upgrades
  - Bond Hall and West Commons interior sanitary sewer piping replacement
  - FSU monument signs on Perry Avenue reconstruction
  - 150+ feasibility studies completed and awaiting decisions from users

✓ Physical Plant project staff worked with contractors over the last couple of months to rebuild the Ferris State University monument signs along Perry Street at 215th (across from the Shell station) and at Ferris Drive (near Tractor Supply).

✓ Earlier this year John Urbanick commissioned a group to review our options for vendors to supply desktop and laptop computers for the university. While we have been using Dell equipment for over a decade, we have had some quality issues with their hardware over the last few years. As a result of a very thorough review the decision has been made to switch from Dell equipment to Hewlett Packard (HP) with new equipment orders
starting in January 2015. In addition to making this change as a result of some quality concerns, this change will also result in an estimated $60,000 annual savings to the university. Thank you to the team members and others across campus that were part of this thorough review process! The subcommittee members were Randy Shanks (chair), Mike Pethick, Doug Vandecar, Arik Eastling, Rob Johnston, Kenny Bartolome, and Joe Strohkirch.

✓ Many of you know we are in the process of revising our **Big Rapids Campus Master Plan** with a target completion date of May 2015. Over the last six weeks we held 20 input sessions across campus as well as one in Grand Rapids. The next step in this process is for our external partners, Neumann Smith, to present to the campus the themes that have emerged so far in this process. If you are interested in hearing this update please attend either forum on November 4 at 4:00 p.m. in MCO 210 or November 5 at 10:30 a.m. in PHR 201. (These were announced previously in a UWN.)

✓ We continue to look for ways to **improve our housing facilities** and living environments for our students. One improvement that we plan to have in place yet this semester or for the beginning of next semester is the addition of some exercise equipment in three of our housing complexes.

✓ Members of our Finance staff are working with representatives from the Advancement and Marketing area to implement a process change January 1 so that **all gifts to the university and to the Ferris Foundation** are processed through the Ferris Foundation. I greatly appreciate the hard work this team is putting into this change to allow for better reporting and a consolidated look at all fundraising for the institution.

✓ Knowing there is some growing interest in **recycling** on campus, I want to point out that the Physical Plant provides large self-serve recycle containers for comingled materials in four locations across campus for use by our residents and offices that choose to do some recycling. These containers are located on the north side of the Michigan College of Optometry building, on the east side of the West Campus Community Center, in the parking lot behind the East Campus Suites buildings, and on the east side of the Rock dining center. Please feel free to have students or employees put university recycling content in those containers.

✓ Some of you have heard in prior communications that we plan to take down Helen Ferris Hall, the East Campus Apartment buildings, and the four South Campus Apartment buildings during the summer of 2015. While we still plan to raze Helen Ferris Hall next summer, the current plan is to delay the removal of the six two story apartment buildings until the summer of 2016 so that we have time to construct some new apartment style beds to replace these units. The current thinking is that we will add a few buildings to the West Campus Apartments complex with construction to fit in with the existing buildings.

✓ Do you have a suggested topic to be considered for a **future issue of The Scoop**? If so, please drop me or Jackie Warner a quick email note with a topic and we will be happy to consider it for a future issue.
I very much appreciate the many efforts of 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