



Memo

To: Dominik Schneble, Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy Co-chair, University Senate Research Committee

From: Barbara Chernow, Vice President, Facilities and Services
Terence Harrigan, Executive Director, Campus Operations & Maintenance

BC JH

Date: 1/19/2012

Re: Response to the Research Facilities Infrastructure Survey 2010/2011

After reading the Research Facilities Infrastructure Survey and meeting with the persons who conducted the survey, we would like to respond to the findings as they pertain to our areas of responsibility. We believe the survey is useful in that it helps define areas we may need to focus on as we plan and budget facility improvements.

We have three observations we would like to share. First, the survey was offered to 2700 faculty and 385 responded equating to a 14% total of those to whom the survey was offered. This represents a somewhat small response pool and, while it is unclear if this size data set is typical, the questions being asked were very broad in nature which may lead to less than conclusive data.

Second, there was a question relating to sufficiency of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment in buildings. Facilities and Services agree that HVAC services needs improvement. Fine Arts, for example, had been noted as an area needing air conditioning during the "shoulder season". The shoulder season is the transition period from when we provide heating then switch over to cooling – typically the end of April to mid-May - and/or cooling to heating – typically the end of September to mid-October. We added a new chiller near the Wang Center to address this concern. This new chiller will be used during the shoulder season as, after that, primary cooling is provided by the Central Plant. In addition, the campus cooling season was extended to handle unseasonably warm days in late September and October.

Third, the question that pertains to janitorial services identified buildings and areas which Facilities and Services has focused. With the recent budget cuts we have modified cleaning services. The frequency of some services, such as trash removal and vacuuming, has been reduced so that labor can instead be focus on critical base line services such as bathroom, classroom and hallway cleaning. The survey data indicated that custodians have not been able to gain entry into some spaces to clean. 56% (9 respondents) indicated a lack of sufficient janitorial services in the Psychology Buildings. Many rooms in this building have locks that restrict cleaners from the space.

In conclusion, this survey has helped to identify areas where further collaboration between the Research Committee and Facilities and Services is needed. Such collaboration will assist in improved service delivery. Facilities and Services will continue to work with faculty and researchers to assess the needs of their programs.