

March 15, 2007

To: Campus Community

From: Russell K. Osgood

*Re: Facilities Update*

This is a regular update of our campus projects and planning. I welcome comments or suggestions.

I. *Science Center Phase II*

The Science Center project is a bit ahead of schedule. We will begin moving into portions of the new construction over break. Doing so will also allow us to begin renovating older portions of the original building earlier than planned. New construction should be complete later this spring, with about a year of renovations to follow.

II. *Cowles*

Cowles Dining is being retrofitted to provide housing for about 48 students. West of the main entrance will be dorm-style housing plus a lounge. East of the main entrance will be apartment-style housing. The new Cowles housing should be ready for students by August 2007.

III. *Houses on Park Street*

A series of moves of offices following the opening of the Joe Rosenfield '25 Center has provided us with an opportunity to revisit the functions assigned to our houses on Park Street. The houses that once served as offices for ITS will be converted into student housing. Over the next few years we expect to convert student housing on the 1200 block of Park Street to academic purposes, beginning this summer with the house on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Park Street (1205 Park).

IV. *Accessibility*

A new, and more focused, phase of work on accessibility has begun as a result of the College's strategic plan (approved in 2005). The College's goal of improving diversity among its students, staff, and faculty includes the intention to ensure that a range of disabled individuals should find Grinnell College a welcoming place and a good environment in which to work and study. With additional funding for accessibility

projects built into its 5-year budget projections, the College is reviewing and planning commitments to improve the accessibility of its facilities and learning environments. We hope to make improvements in accessibility to all deficient academic and office spaces over this period.

This planning has benefited from the work and commitment of an ad hoc Disability Committee, and from the on-going contributions of the staff in Student Affairs, the Health Center, and Facilities Management.

V. *Athletics and Fitness Planning*

The architectural teams of Pelli Clarke Pelli and Sasaki Associates are working to finish the plans for the next phase of the Athletics and Fitness Center. These include a field house, faculty offices and training facilities, community and team locker rooms, classrooms, and a 50 meter indoor pool.

VI. *Burling Library Reference*

The reference area of Burling Library will undergo minor renovation this summer. Changes include new lighting and a reconfiguration of the reference area to better reflect how librarians assist patrons.

RKO: ms