October 31, 2014

Dear University Community:

This is the second update to provide you with the status of the construction projects around our campus. Our updates are available at this website: http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/resources/depts_services/bldg_services/capital_projects.html.

Interim Parking and Construction Websites and Webcam

As a reminder, our website (http://www.metrostate.edu/) displays prominent direct links to both “Interim Parking” and “Construction” information.

At our “Construction” site, in addition to current information on our construction projects, you will find links to our live webcam view of the parking ramp, student center and science education center worksites.

Remote Parking Site

I am pleased to report that our shuttle and remote parking system continues to function well with the extended shuttle hours for Fall Semester classes, accommodating students in evening classes.

Because the restricted parking situation will continue into the Spring 2015 term, we will be relocating classes to St. Paul College as we did in the Fall term.

We are staying abreast developments with the Kellogg Bridge and will continue to use the bridge for the shuttle route.

Parking Ramp Site: Soil Contamination, Testing, and Mitigation

Previously, we reported that our environmental safety consultants discovered soil contaminated with gas and diesel along with evidence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Although we have found no evidence of risk to persons on or near the worksite, health and safety is our highest priority. Here is how we have responded:

• Completed an environmental site assessment;

• Removed contaminated soil immediately below the ramp footprint;

• Consulted with MnSCU’s Finance and Facilities leadership team and appropriate regulatory agencies including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Capital Region Watershed District;

• Developed plans to replace our intended storm-water infiltration system with a filtration system that will keep storm-water from the site from entering the watershed.

The soil contamination issue clearly impacted the project, with the contractor stating that the project is about 18 weeks behind schedule from its original completion date of late January 2015. While costs are still being refined, the current financial estimate of the contamination mitigation and delay costs exceeds $3.4 million. We are working with the MnSCU System Office to understand how to fund this cost.
With the soil contamination now resolved, the construction is moving along. The main stair tower is moving upward, the first level is paved with asphalt, utilities are in place, the second level will be formed soon and concrete will be placed in November. The contractor is taking steps to continue construction throughout the winter.

**Student Center:**

If you watched the web cam or driven by on 7th Street, you observed that the construction of the student center is making great progress. Most of the foundations are in place and block walls are going up. In November, roofing steel will arrive and the exterior brick will begin being placed.

Like the parking ramp, the student center site had contaminated soils which were substantially removed under the building footprint. Because the ground still has vapors that can seep into the building through cracks and holes, a soil vapor extraction system has been designed and will be installed under the building. The cost of the soil removal, testing, and vapor extraction system is estimated to be approximately $580,000. As with the parking ramp, we are working with the MnSCU System Office to identify a way to fund the additional costs.

**Science Education Center:**

We hosted a superb groundbreaking on October 10 and were pleased that most of the elected officials who supported the new building attended. The science education center is now well underway. Approximately 300 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the site and hauled to an approved landfill. We knew this soil was there and the cost of removal is in the construction contract. The foundations are being placed, formwork for the first story walls are going up, and utility connections to the site are made. Work is also complete on the foundations for the skyway next to Founders Hall. In the coming weeks, the second floor of the building will be formed and concrete placed.

**Maria Traffic Calming Measures:**

We also plan to implement traffic-calming measures on Maria Avenue between E. 6th Street and E. 7th Street in partnership with the City of St. Paul. That work will be done in the spring of 2015 while the parking ramp is under construction so that they are completed together.

Please watch for continuing updates as we make progress toward completing our four construction projects.

Sincerely,

Murtuza Siddiqui,
V.P. for Administrative Affairs