Update on Major Projects
January 2015

Fine Arts Instructional Center – The construction of this 118,000 square foot facility is well underway. As you can see from many parts of campus, the exterior masonry has been completed and progress is being made on the installation of the curtain walls (glass walls on the exterior of the building). Interior walls are nearly complete; utilities such as electrical, HVAC and plumbing have been roughed in. We have been working with the faculty to identify equipment needed for the building. Construction is scheduled to be substantially complete in September 2015, and occupancy will take place in January 2016.

Shafer Hall Renovations – This project will renovate the 1946 building which is one of Eastern’s earliest buildings. Shafer Hall will be renovated for residential use with two, four and six person suites. The building will house approximately 100 students. Shafer Auditorium will be renovated and retained for use as an assembly space. The project will also include upgrades to electrical, HVAC, plumbing, sprinklers, and heating; new windows; and repairs to the building skin. The building will meet the State of Connecticut High Performance Building Regulations which strive to match the USGBC LEED Silver Certification Standards. The contract for the architect is being processed, and design is expected to kick off in the spring of 2015.

Goddard/Communication Renovations – This project will renovate both Goddard Hall and the Communication buildings, providing for newly-renovated classrooms, labs and offices. The project will also provide new electrical, HVAC, plumbing, sprinklers and heating upgrades. Windows will be replaced, and improvements to the building skin will be addressed. This building will meet the State of Connecticut High Performance Building Regulations. The architect’s contract for programming services has been processed, and we will be kicking off meetings with the administration and academic departments in mid to late January. The programming phase is scheduled for a ten-week duration. The design contract will then be negotiated, and design is expected to kick off in the fall of 2015.

Academic Quad – The project is substantially complete. We are awaiting handrails for the ADA-accessible ramp which was added by a change order. All landscaping was completed, and access to the quad was limited to allow the lawns to get established. We expect to be able to utilize the quad fully after the spring thaw.

Windham Street Extension Walkway and Lighting Improvements – This project is now substantially complete and provides new walkways, lighting and benches on the eastern side of Windham Street Extension. The walkway helps to strengthen the connection between the northern and southern parts of the campus. Lighting and the additional sidewalks add to the safety and security of pedestrians traversing this section of campus.
**Instructional Space Utilization Study** – The renovation projects involving Goddard, Communication and Shafer Hall will require that these buildings come off line for construction. If the projects run concurrently, it would mean the temporary loss of general-purpose classrooms, labs and departmental offices. In March of 2014, Facilities Management & Planning initiated a study of our instructional space utilization that looked at the number of classrooms, labs and seminar rooms on campus. This included a review of the size, number of seats, furnishings and utilization of each of these spaces. The study also reviewed our scheduling practices. The study reviewed the impact of the loss of instructional space during construction of these projects and possible ways to mitigate that impact. In May, a survey was made available for faculty and student response. The survey asked for comments and suggestions on instructional space, scheduling and types of technology used in the spaces. The final draft of the study was approved, and we are working to mitigate the loss of space when the above-referenced renovation projects begin.

**HTHW Piping Replacement Between Niejadlik and Facilities Building** – This project will replace old high temperature hot water piping serving Niejadlik Hall, Crandall Hall, Occum Hall, Hurley Hall, and the Facilities Building. The project is in design and scheduled to go for a building permit and bidding in February of 2015. Piping must be secured a minimum of ten weeks prior to installation in order to be delivered and installed and ready for use prior to the arrival of students in August.

**Hot Water Heater Replacement – Constitution, Nutmeg and Laurel Halls** – This project will replace the large commercial domestic hot water heaters for Constitution, Nutmeg and Laurel Halls. The project has been designed and submitted to the building inspector for approval and building permits. The project is scheduled to be bid in February. Materials must be ordered a minimum of eight weeks prior to the start of construction in order to ensure that equipment will be on site and ready for install immediately following commencement. The project must be complete for the August move in of students.

**Re-Surface Baseball Infield** – The baseball stadium was completed in 1998 and has seen continual use since its opening. This project will re-furbish the infield. The design will begin in January, and construction will immediately follow the NE Regional Tournament being held at Eastern in May of 2015. All work will be complete by September 2015.

**Re-surface 400 Meter Track** – The 400 meter track was originally constructed in 2003. The track has had continual use by Eastern’s athletic teams, intramurals, staff and local residents. It has begun to show significant wear. This project will provide a new surface and re-stripe all lanes and track event areas. The project will begin design in January, will be bid in March and start construction after the close of the semester. All work will be done by the fall of 2015.