Update on Major Projects
May 7, 2021

Low Rise Courtyard Improvements and Stair Replacement – Phase four of the Low Rise Courtyard Improvements and Stair Replacement project will begin construction at the end of May. The stairs to the 500 Building will be demolished and replaced and will be ready for occupancy by the beginning of August 2021. This is the final phase of this multi-year project!

Replace Gymnasium Bleachers and Re-Finish the Gymnasium Floor – This project was bid in December, and we are waiting for funding to award the construction contract. The first phase, the gym floor re-finishing, was completed last summer. Due to COVID and the possible use of the gym by the state for emergency beds, the bleacher portion of the project had to be cancelled and re-bid. The project was split into two phases, the refinishing of the gymnasium floor was completed last summer, and we are presently waiting for the funds to be transferred so that a construction contract can be issued. The shop drawing phase will be completed in February and March, and demolition and construction will begin after Commencement. The project is scheduled to be complete in early August 2021.

Occum Hall Fire Pump Replacement – This project is presently underway, the fire pump has been ordered and work is scheduled to begin the week of May 17. The construction phase will be complete by the beginning of August 2021.

Residence Hall Masonry Repairs – This project will be initiated this spring to design masonry repairs to the High Rise building, Neijadlik Hall, and Mead Hall. The repairs will include the removal and replacement of spalled and cracked brick, repointing and flashing and caulking. The design would be completed by fall so that winter bidding and summer 2022 construction can move forward.

Interior Renovations Noble Hall – This project is presently in the planning and design phase. It includes replacement of kitchen cabinets, lavatory counters and sinks, and finishes in these areas. Noble Hall was originally gutted and renovated in the 1990s.

High Rise Geothermal Equipment Modifications – The geothermal system which heats and cools the High Rise residence hall was originally installed in 2000. Pumping equipment needs to be upgraded to keep the system running optimally. This work is the construction phase, all equipment has been ordered and construction will begin the week of May 17.

Sports Center Equipment Room Air Conditioning – The Sports Center equipment room contains commercial grade laundry equipment used to clean athletic uniforms. This space is presently unconditioned making it a difficult space to work in when the laundry equipment is in operation. This project will add conditioning to the space, bring the sprinklers to protect the space up to code, and provide a code required separation between the laundry equipment area and other operations in this area. The project is presently out to bid and we expect to award a contract by mid-May.
347 Prospect Street – Structural Upgrades and Exterior Skin Repair – The University recently acquired 347 Prospect Street. The property has been vacant for several years and needs structural repairs as well as repairs to the skin of the building. The project has been initiated, design services have been negotiated and we hope to have a contract for design before the end of May. Presently, hazardous material abatement is underway and expected to be complete by mid-May. We hope to complete design by mid-summer and begin construction prior to fall 2021.

Reset All Classrooms for Full Occupancy – Facilities plans to reset all classrooms prior to fall 2021. The work to resize classrooms over this past summer was a huge undertaking. Planning is underway to verify classroom setups, and we plan on beginning this work in June 2021. We are awaiting further direction from the CDC and the State about social distancing for classrooms.

Fuel Cell – A new bank of fuel cells will be installed adjacent to the Admissions Building. The project is expected to be complete by the end of June. It will provide 1.15 KVA of electricity for the campus.