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President's Report

August 2010

The end of summer is upon us. Full-time faculty have returned to campus, late registration is underway and we are preparing for another large group of new and returning students.

Currently, we are experiencing a 9.5% increase in FTE enrollment as compared to the same period last year. As you know, we developed the FY 11 budget based on an annual overall enrollment increase of 5.5%. We ended the summer term slightly below that level. However, if the fall increase holds we will exceed that level. A more accurate forecast will be available in the September President's Report.

Our student services staff and faculty have been working hard to assure a smooth transition for new students. Over 2,600 new full-time students have attended orientation with approximately 400 expected in this last week of registration. Approximately 300 new students with disabilities have been documented and processed and nearly 500 parents attended our special parent orientation this summer.

Student leaders are back on campus and many of them participated in a planning retreat over the August 14th weekend. These leaders have been preparing for the fall by engaging new students all summer in orientation and have already registered 400 new students in various clubs and organizations. Similarly, we have 180 student athletes on campus participating in summer practices for football, volleyball, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's cross country.

As you may recall, Cathy and I welcomed 50 students from our International Program to our home earlier this summer for a picnic. This month we wish to recognize Jill Izumikawa, our International Student Coordinator for being granted a Fulbright award for U.S./Korea International Education. Jill spent two intensive weeks in South Korea touring eleven universities, historical and cultural sites, and traveled throughout much of the country. About 30% of Harper College's international students are from the Republic of Korea. Jill's travels were highlighted in a story in the *Daily Herald*.

This is a VERY busy time for our various campus service departments as well. Below is a description of projects completed over this summer.

Informational Technology

- Banner System Upgrade. Our Banner student information system underwent the first major upgrade since going live in 2008. Thanks to the efforts of every area of the College, Banner 8 was made available to our students, faculty, and business offices on July 12. The project involved the participation of more than 30 IT team members and more than 50 members of Harper College business, academic, and student services offices with a combined effort exceeding 3,000 hours of work. The project also included the development, testing and integration of hundreds of system interfaces, reports, and customizations. Moreover, the project was completed on time, under budget, and with no significant issues.
- Faculty Earned Credit Hours Tracking. This project, which includes the self-service application for the input, approval and tracking of faculty CEU credits earned, was completed. This project included data conversion, development of Oracle custom forms for input, and automated processing and reporting of the credits. This project represents Harper's first development effort with the Oracle Application Framework tools.
- Service Desk Plus. The Service Desk Plus (SDP) system has been successfully implemented. Clients can now open, update, and view the status of and verify resolution on any/all requests that are created via SDP. Many clients have given positive feedback based on the immediate response that a request has been created and that there is now a link to view their request. They also enjoy the system generated email that explains their issue has been resolved. This gives the clients an opportunity to alert IT if the issue has returned or needs further trouble-shooting. SDP ultimately gives clients more flexibility to check the status of their request based on what the IT technicians have accomplished thus-far on their issue.
- Upgrade of Harper Firewall Infrastructure. Two new CISCO ASA firewalls were installed. These devices provide for redundant firewall protection from the Internet. Previously this function was supported by only one legacy PIX device. The PIX was at end of life. Replacement with two devices provides for redundancy as well as improved functionality.

Retail Services

- Bookstore POS System. Through the joint efforts of the Harper College Bookstore staff and IT over the last few months, the fourteen year old Bookstore enterprise system was replaced with a new system from Nebraska Book Company. The new system will support the growing overall volume and demands related to initiatives such as eBooks, debit card pin pads, and the book rental program.

Physical Plant

- D, G, and H Buildings. D Building construction was completed on schedule. The moves from G and H to D began immediately. The move was completed ahead of schedule. Many faculty have unpacked and arranged their offices. Work orders have been

generated to make the new space functional. The cleanup of the G and H Buildings has begun to prepare for the asbestos abatement.

- New Chiller Plant. The new Chiller Plant is nearing completion with all mechanical equipment and piping now in place. The chilled water loops are being filled and flushed, and the pumping and chiller control system work is in progress. System start-up and training will begin in late August, while interior fireproofing, painting and finish work are completed. The site restoration work will begin shortly, as soon as vehicular access into the site is no longer required.
- HPC – HVAC and Roof Replacement. The HVAC portion of this project will be substantially complete within a week. All new rooftop units are installed and control wiring is in progress. Gas piping work is nearly complete and electrical service panels were replaced. The old air conditioning units remain connected to provide temporary interior cooling. Structural steel framing for the rooftop screen-walls has been installed, with the screening to follow the roof replacement. The roofing work is about to start after being delayed by the operators' strike, backlog work, and weather conditions. Roofing work (complete tear-off and replacement) will take between five and six weeks. Some classes and office personnel will relocate within the building when noisy operations are experienced.

Previous serious roof leaks in the center portion of the building are now under control, but some minor leaks will remain until the new roof is complete next month. The contractor has taken responsibility for all water damage and will restore conditions to Harper's satisfaction. This project was especially difficult to schedule since major building systems were being replaced while students, faculty, office staff, and four dental offices continued to operate.

- J-Theater Renovations. Construction started August 2. The entire audience area was covered by scaffolding to create a level work platform above the seats. Demolition work is complete, and iron workers have begun reinforcing the catwalk hangers. Electricians are busy running new lighting circuits while the sprinkler fitters have begun pipe relocations. Harper's acoustical consultant is finalizing sound control material locations which will add some cost to the project. The scope of work includes extending the catwalk system, adding a second means of egress, correcting sprinkler deficiencies, new aisle lighting, and new efficient ceiling lights, suspended acoustical reflectors, upgraded audio cabling, and minor HVAC work. The project is expected to be complete by early December.
- Y-Building Emergency Generator. The architects have been authorized to prepare construction documents. This project is expected to be out for bid by mid-September with an anticipated October construction start. The project scope includes a new back-up generator and screen wall. The diesel-powered generator will provide power for critical cooling equipment in the Data Center which runs campus-wide computer systems. The screen wall design will be compatible with the Avanté architecture and act to hide the generator from view.

- T-Building Fleet Shop. This project is substantially complete. Physical Plant personnel completed this project. The project added a separation wall between the Roads and Grounds Shop and the Vehicle Maintenance Shop. The existing parts room was demolished to create additional space to service/store various campus vehicles. A Parts Storage Room and Mechanic's Office were constructed within the open shop area. Electrical panels were relocated out of the wash bay. Welding outlets were also added. General improvements included relocating high-bay light fixtures, securing powered equipment to the floor, adding storage rack units, and power-washer connections for the adjacent trash-compactor area.

On Tuesday, the campus-wide meeting was held that kicks off the semester. It was very well attended. During the meeting, I informed employees that the campus would remain open until noon on Fridays next summer. Also, the expectation is that a full complement of hours would be worked during those weeks in the summer which will extend the work day slightly Mondays through Thursdays. Operational challenges associated with this change will be addressed by January. This will allow employees to make appropriate adjustments to their schedules by the summer.

We're looking forward to a successful start to the fall term.

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