

## **Office of Facilities Services Advisory Committee (OFSAC)**

### **Minutes – May 31, 2007**

**Members Present:** Bruce Morton, Chair, Allen Bertelsen, Jeff Butler, Robert Carson, Heidi Gagnon, Chris Jenkins, Carol Shannon, Ed Sondeno, Sandy Sward

**Members Absent:** Sandy Gagnon, Rick Hixson, Jim Rimpau, Melanie Stocks,

**Others Present:** Sue Becker, Jeff Davis, Robert Lashaway

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1. **Approval of Minutes – March 29, 2007**

Jenkins moved to approve the Minutes as submitted for the Meeting held March 29, 2007. The Motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

2. **Summer Operating Hours for Heating Plant**

Davis reported that for many years the Heat Plant has been shut down over the summer during the evening hours. This reduction in operation saves the University approximately \$125,000 a year, mostly from fuel savings but some from personnel savings. This time also allows Facilities the opportunity to perform maintenance.

Auxiliary Services has recently requested that the Heat Plant summer operating hours be extended. The request came too late to make a change this year and Facilities felt that it would not be prudent to arbitrarily make the change, resulting in a cut in the savings, without further study. Committee members suggested that since the request primarily stems from the increased use of the dorms during the summer, charges to guests might be recalibrated to cover the cost of running the heating plant for the additional time.

Bertelsen made a Motion recommending that Davis proceed with a full evaluation of this request and the ramifications over the next several months. The Motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

3. **Annual Facilities Services Major Maintenance List**

Butler advised that he is setting up a Major Maintenance milestone calendar. We are hoping in the next couple of weeks to have a better idea of what the budget will be.

4. **Natural Gas Price Lock**

Davis reported that we have locked in on a fixed price for our natural gas commodity supply contract on May 16. Our contract price for the next two fiscal years is \$8.16/dkt. This price is 23% higher than our current price (for the past two years) of \$6.66, but it is 8% lower than our budget projection done in the fall of 2006. In a comparison study of our contracts versus what we would have paid in the spot market over the past 20 years, we have saved approximately \$10.2 million.

**5. Status of Custodial Wage Request**

At the last OFSAC meeting, we reported that the proposal to increase Custodial wage from \$8.87 to \$11.13 had been sent to the Commissioners office. After the Commissioners office sent the proposal to the unions, both the Laborers and Teamsters Unions filed objections. The Teamsters have now dropped their objection and the Commissioners office has approved the new rate for Custodians in the Teamsters Union. At MSU, there are Custodians in both unions however at Facilities, Custodians are members of the Laborers Union. Our hope is that the Laborers Union will also drop their objection.

Recently Facilities lost three more custodians. At this time the graveyard shift and day shifts are full but there is a 30% vacancy in the swing shift. They have now gone to a “team” cleaning system which puts 4 – 5 custodians cleaning 5 – 7 buildings. This system seems to be working at this time.

**6. Campus Cleanup Day**

Butler provided information regarding the second annual Facilities Campus Cleanup Day. On the Friday before Commencement, Administration & Finance staff joined Facilities employees for a sweep across campus from College to Kagy. Workers did a good job in gathering a lot of material. This effort may expand to include other departments in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Morrison  
Facilities Services