I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. Eileen and I traveled to Oregon for a much needed vacation. It was great to see a part of our country we have never been to before and we enjoyed everything it had to offer. I was reminded of the many wonderful things to do right here at home that I hope you take advantage of.

In a summary of the survey we did on the monthly VP newsletter, I was happy to see that 90 percent of you said you read it, 83 percent of you found it useful and only 4 percent expressed dissatisfaction. We received numerous suggestions on what you want to read about in the newsletter, and I thank you for your comments. The purpose of this newsletter is to share high-level information directly from me. This newsletter is not intended to address and resolve specific issues or to go into in-depth coverage of particular topics. Here are some major topics I’d like to share with you this month:

**Administrative Streamlining Process (ASP) mid-term assessment**

As part of Cornell’s ASP, also known as the Bain initiative, university leadership is conducting interviews with numerous stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the process and what can be done to maximize the benefits of the initiatives that have been implemented. Professor Sam Bacharach of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations and consultant Steve Dewart from Colorado will evaluate Facilities Services. Sam is a long-time faculty member who directs the Leading Cornell initiative and Steve is a consultant who has worked on executive leadership training and organizational assessment. The goal is to optimize the changes we implemented rather than to second guess what steps were taken and why. Through this process we hope to make ourselves function even more effectively. The interviews will take place in August and I will receive a final report in late September.

**Deferred Maintenance (DM) task force**

The DM task force charged by the Provost held its first in an ongoing series of meetings to determine appropriate levels of funding and to develop a long-term funding strategy. Under the new budget model, maintenance funding is now the responsibility of the entire university, including all academic units. The task force is co-chaired by Maria Cimilluca, Facilities Management, and Davina Desnoes from the University Budget Office. In the first meeting, they worked to define “maintenance and renewal” and reviewed historic funding levels. The team discussed the major audit concerns of insufficient funding to address maintenance backlog and the need for annual building assessments. They compared Cornell’s spending on DM to our peers. They also reviewed FPNMS (Facilities Physical Needs Measurement System) and how it’s used as a tool to prioritize need. The conversation included how we use ‘Likelihood’ and ‘Impact’ scores to arrive at the risk factor.

**Cornell United Way (UW) campaign**

Look for some fun UW events coming to FS in August. We will have an ice cream truck visiting several locations. All proceeds from the sale will support the UW campaign. We will also conduct several raffles leading up to the ice cream day. We have been working hard to acquire some enticing prizes! I thank our ambassadors for their diligent work in keeping a focus on the United Way in our organization. The Facilities Services United Way ambassadors are Brian Goodell, Debra Howell, Cindy Lockwood, Rob Morris, Julie Parsons, Jaimi Shoemaker, and Sue Kern Wilkins.

**Enjoy the rest of the summer. Next time I write, the students will be back!**

Kyu