March, 2015

As I write this, my office is illuminated by a bright afternoon sun and I cannot help but think the end of a long winter is finally here! Temperatures are rising, the snow and ice are melting, and it’s only a matter of weeks before we see green again. Now it’s on to spring and our Sesquicentennial celebration and Commencement!

We Have a New Name

The name Facilities Services has served our division well for many years as the cornerstone of our organizational identity. However, it is important that our identity align with the work we do each day. As the roles and responsibilities of our division have evolved over the years, the name Facilities Services has come to capture only a fraction of what we do.

With this in mind, I have worked with my leadership team and the senior leaders of the University to create a name that will better serve our division now and in the future. Our organization has gone through several name changes in the past for the very same reasons.

I am excited to announce that, beginning immediately, our division will be known as Infrastructure, Properties and Planning (IPP).

The new name reflects the fact that our division does more than maintain facilities. We produce and distribute electricity, drinking water and steam for heating. We play a prominent role in the design and construction of new buildings on campus. We manage roadways and parking for thousands of people. We transport people and move things. We manage Cornell’s real estate and care for its built and natural environment. We design physical spaces and landscapes. The division is in the forefront of Cornell’s efforts to achieve a truly sustainable campus. We also plan for what the future of all these things will look like so we can continue to ensure that the University has the physical assets it needs to fulfill its mission of learning, discovery and engagement.

All departments within the division will continue with their current names.

Strategic Plan

By now I hope you have heard about our 2015–18 strategic plan for the division. I introduced our new strategy map at the February 24th Facilities Leadership Council meeting to many of our Directors and
Managers. Those Managers and Directors are now meeting with their departments and work groups to share the plan with everyone throughout the organization. You will be able to find information about the strategic plan and strategy map online at: http://www.fs.cornell.edu/strategic_plan/default.cfm

**What exactly is a land-grant College?**

We often hear it said that Cornell is New York State’s Land-Grant University, but not everyone is entirely sure what that means.

The Morrill Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862. This law gave (or granted) Federal land to each state which could then be either sold or otherwise used to fund a “land-grant” college. According to the law, these schools were intended to “teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.”

Did you know that because New York State did not have enough Federal land available to fulfill its grant, the state was instead allowed to choose land outside the state? New York selected some valuable timber land in Wisconsin. The profits from the Wisconsin timber were used to fund Cornell University, and proved so lucrative that New York’s share of land grant revenues totaled one third of the entire program, even though the state only received one tenth of the initial grant. Not a bad start!

Today, to remain a land-grant college, an institution must have programs in agriculture, engineering, and ROTC.

**Speaking of Green….**

In the spirit of thinking about the color green once again, I’d like to remind everyone that the Green Office Certification Program is underway. Offices that sign up by March 31st will be entered in a drawing for a special prize. The program is a simple self-assessment that offices throughout campus can use to evaluate their current practices, set goals to initiate new practices and be recognized for their efforts in the areas of community engagement, energy, green events, purchasing, recycling, transportation and waste. More information can be found online at:
http://www.sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/initiatives/green-your-office/

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