

Update Message from Interim Vice President Charlie Wyckoff - April 18

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Subject: MTSC Update

I'd like to provide you with an update on the status of both the air quality and HVAC analyses in the MTSC. Michelle Rosales of Forensic Analytical reports that about 40 survey responses were received through the secure website that was set up. As you know, they went directly to Ms. Rosales and who replied and what each respondent said is confidential. However, Michelle is informing about the issues contained in the survey responses. We extended the survey through Tuesday, 4/16 to give faculty additional time to respond since last week was Spring Break and that resulted in 10 more responses. The majority of the odor complaints concern solvent and sewer gas odors and there was mention of the sulfur odor as well. We also had a report on Tuesday of a formaldehyde odor in 231 and this was communicated to Michelle Rosales. While this may or may not be confirmed by the air analysis, and I am not prejudging the air quality study in any way, I believe the source of the solvent odor are the projection screens in each lab and lecture room. I have walked the building on two occasions, room by room, lowering the screens and I have smelled the solvent odor in varying degrees. Apparently whatever is emanating from the screens to produce the odor gets stored up in the housing and the odor is strongest when the screens are first lowered. I have also determined that the less frequently the screen has been used since it was installed the stronger the odor. This was done by comparing the intensity of the odor with a database maintained by Stephen Ashby that tracks bulb usage in each projector. Forensic Analytical will also be testing the new screen we removed from Lab 306.

Forensic Analytical will collect air samples and monitor those areas in which odors have been reported using collection canisters with eight hour regulators so samples are taken over a long period of time. In addition they will sample in an as yet undetermined percentage of spaces in which no odors have been reported. Similar testing but with 24 hour regulators will be done for the sewer gases. Other odors will be investigated using passive sampler badges in various areas of the building with a 24 hour sampling time. These badges may indicate the need for further air sample testing.

The survey responses included comments relating to the taste of the drinking water in fountains and comfort in the building as it relates to temperature and other factors. As a result the scope of the Forensic Analytical analysis has been broadened to include drinking water quality as well as a "comfort analysis" which will include CO2 and temperature variability monitoring.

The air sampling will begin on 4/22 and there is a 7 to 10 working day turnaround time for the lab analysis to be completed, so with one week for sampling, ten working days for lab results to be received, and time for Michelle to write her report, we would expect results around May 13, however if the passive monitoring indicates a need for further active testing, this would result in more time being needed to accomplish the additional testing and have the samples analyzed.

p2s, the engineering firm which is analyzing and evaluating the HVAC system, is completing its analysis of the building documents we provided them and has begun phase two of their work this week which includes telephone interviews with building occupants as well as college Facilities personnel. James Del Monaco, the engineer who will be primarily responsible for the HVAC study has already made contact and set up meetings with some faculty including Dr. Rosario. I know this because Dr. Rosario chose to

copy me on an email arranging the meeting with Mr. Del Monaco, but I do not know who else he will be meeting with nor have I asked him to inform me. Next week p2s will be on campus to do a physical inspection of the building systems and to meet with people who are key to their analysis. This will help them ascertain whether the systems are operating as designed. We are expecting their full report around second week of May. They have already identified several issues they need to investigate further based on their study of the mechanical drawings they have reviewed.

As I said at the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday night, we're comfortable that the two analyses we have commissioned are robust and comprehensive and that we are living up to our promise to you to get the information we need to understand the issues, formulate solutions and remediate them as soon as possible. While we would have liked to have had results yesterday, we are also comfortable that the work of the consultants is progressing at as fast a pace as possible. We are acutely aware of the need to conclude these analyses quickly, but we also believe that "thorough is better than fast", and we will take the time necessary to assure that all issues are completely investigated. This is demonstrated by the fact that we have expanded the scope of the work of Forensic Analytical based on survey responses. I also told the Trustees that we firmly believe that you have a right to be comfortable in your workplace and to be confident in the safety of your environment.

We welcome your comments and questions and will continue to keep you up to date on the progress of this effort.

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