

Bicentennial Strategic Planning Commission

February 2017

Executive Summary/Facilities and Environmental Sustainability

As Trinity approaches its 200th anniversary, its aging physical plant faces many challenges. The College must address its substantial deferred maintenance backlog and establish principles and processes to guide future decision-making. The College must prioritize deferred maintenance, bring its structures up to current building codes and accessibility requirements, and resist impulses to build unnecessarily. This will require vision, discipline, communication, and accountability. The vision calls for a plan for the physical plant that preserves the beauty of our iconic buildings, is financially and environmentally sustainable, and is flexible enough to accommodate shifts in pedagogy and technology. Furthermore, the plan should include a commitment to beautify and develop the areas immediately adjacent to the Trinity campus. Discipline, communication, and accountability can be achieved with the adoption of a transparent process for vetting capital and maintenance projects that engages the campus community. This includes formation of a cross-divisional advisory committee that would review projects and oversee a website that tracks capital and deferred maintenance projects.

Trinity must also develop a plan to educate the College community about the dangers of global climate change and establish policies and practices that set the course for a campus environment that values sustainability as a cornerstone value. Without a dedicated infrastructure to pursue this vision, however, history has proven that sustainability efforts will fall short. Thus, the FESC recommends that the College hire a full-time

sustainability officer to coordinate green objectives, establish a cross-divisional committee that would set a strategic vision for campus sustainability initiatives, and commit to fundraising for facilities and sustainability projects.