Clara Krug (CLASS) asked for an update about Joe Franklin’s visit to the Forest Drive Building to determine the status of the roof.

Joe Franklin (Business and Finance): “The roof on the Forest Drive Building is indeed in pretty poor shape. There have been ten reported leaks over the last two years, which seems pretty high to me. I have asked Physical Plant to get me an estimate of what it would cost to replace the roof. I did check to see if the roof was replaceable, and, yes, indeed you may replace the roof. It may cost money; it will cost money, but, yes, indeed, you can replace the roof, and they will report that back to me, and we’ll make a decision to see if we’re willing to spend that much money or not.”

Clara Krug (CLASS): “Follow up. So if it’s too expensive, and it could be replaced but won’t be replaced, is that an option? Would it be too expensive to consider replacing the roof?”

Joe Franklin: “Clara, I really anticipate that it’s not too expensive to replace the roof, but I don’t know what that cost estimate would be right now, so I don’t want to say. We’re going to do it. But let me wait until we get an estimate and we’ll move from there.”

Franklin continued that he had checked into the cause of a fire there. “As it turned out, the fire was not a result of the electrical system, but a result of a plastic fan blade that overheated. We have checked into the electrical systems. I have had conversations with Physical Plant people, and they are very satisfied that the electrical system in the building is safe and will be safe for many years to come.”

Candy Schille (CLASS): “I could be wrong, because the SPC minutes are frequently so very vague, but I seem to recall that, Joe, when you came to the SPC, you said that the building itself was going to be gone in two years.”

Joe Franklin: “No. I don’t believe I said that. We, in the SPC we did talk about a number of buildings that will be gone within two years. I believe there are five, and I don’t want to name each and every one of them, but I believe it was five.”

Joe Franklin: “Forest Drive and the Family and Consumer Sciences Building are both of such a size and of such use that we do not have an adequate replacement for them at this time, and I do not foresee that in the next two years.”

Marc Cyr (CLASS): “You and I were emailing back and forth a little bit, Joe, and the issue of the kind of wiring in the building came up and that apparently some of the wiring through Forest Drive is residential grade rather than commercial, and that the fire was caused by a plastic fan that malfunctioned. And I think I asked you, I can’t remember because this was some time ago, about some of the equipment and its rating, whether it is perhaps being asked to carry a load, do a job, appropriate for a commercial applications which is basically what we have here, but is, in fact, a residential quality. It’s great for residential quality, but its being run too long by too many people, too many different
users, that kind of thing. Is that a concern? Is there something we can do to address that issue, without bulldozing it?”

Joe Franklin: “I think you mentioned the solution. Physical Plant is satisfied that the electrical system as it is used, the electrical system is appropriate for its use. There are some residential-type breakers in the building, but the use of those is consistent with the breaker itself. And I’m not an electrician, and don’t propose that I am, but our electricians feel very good about this building. They said now there are some other buildings that we might want to talk about, but they were very satisfied that this building was safe as far as its electrical system goes.
Moderator Humphrey (COST) then asked for news on the Forest Drive Building roof. Franklin (VP for Business & Finance) replied that they had a company study the roof: “It’s kind of like [...] an inner tube, where you poke a hole in it, you can seal it up, but then you poke another hole in it, and it needs sealing up again.” We have an estimate of the cost to replace the roof, and no decision has yet been made as to whether to replace it or not: “It won’t be in this year-end cycle, because it’s a little late for that, but it’s something that we could consider for next year, but we have looked it, got somebody to come up there with a, I think its one of those roofs that you would kind of spray on and it expands and seals all cracks, but we’re looking at that, yes.”