APPA Debuts Its Qualified FPI Advisor Program

By Christina Hills

How well is your facilities portfolio in alignment with your institution’s strategic direction? Do you know where to go to collect data within your institution to complete this year’s FPI (Facilities Performance Indicator) survey? Assuming you had the data, would you know how to input it into the survey? Would you know how to interpret your institution’s metrics in the FPI report?

APPA understands the challenges faced by many of our facilities members. APPA is determined to meet these challenges with the implementation of our newly created Qualified FPI Advisor program. In early July, a small cadre of our most seasoned facilities professionals gathered at the APPA office for training and certification in this program. These professionals are available to visit your campus and help guide you and your staff with FPI-related tasks.

The FPI Advisor program is meant to be custom designed around every school’s needs. APPA has brought together a cadre of seasoned professionals who have been selected because of their experience in working with FPI.

Doug Christensen, APPA Fellow
Facilities Education Experience: 25+ yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: Past APPA President, Faculty member for Facilities Institute, Chair of Leadership Academy, APPA Fellow

Ernest Hunter
Facilities Education Experience: 8 yrs (26 yrs in facilities work for U.S. Navy) Facilities Related Recognition: 2008 TAPPA Emeritus Award recipient, several awards while Director at University of Texas-Austin

Tom Harkenrider
Facilities Education Experience: 30 yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: APPA President’s Award for SAM and FPI, APPA FMEP, and Award for Excellence committee and task force

Dan Johnson
Facilities Education Experience: 26 yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: PCAPPA Board for 7 yrs, VP for APPA’s Professional Affairs and on the Professional Affairs Committee for 6 yrs, APPA Institute and Leadership Academy graduate

Duane Hickling
Facilities Education Experience: 20 yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: AVP at University of Chicago, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities at University of Wisconsin, and Director of Facilities at University of Southern California

Maggie Kinnaman
Facilities Education Experience: 30 yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: Past APPA President, APPA Board or committee member for 20 yrs, Institute and Academy Faculty Member

Jack Hug, APPA Fellow
Facilities Education Experience: 44 yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: Past APPA President, FMEP Team Leader, APPA Institute Faculty Award, Presidential Award from three APPA Presidents

Ted Weidner
Facilities Education Experience: 19 yrs
Facilities Related Recognition: FMEP Team Leader, Institute Faculty Member, CFaR and CFC Strategies and Alternatives Committee member, Facilities Manager Bookshelf Column Editor

For more information on the Qualified FPI Advisor Program or to schedule an advisor, visit www.appa.org/research/fpiadvisors.cfm, or contact Christina Hills at christina@appa.org.
unique set of needs. The advisors can structure on-campus sessions in myriad ways to best suit the needs of your institution. For example, the advisors can acquire, evaluate, and input the data into the FPI survey. They can also develop and create a tailored Executive Summary Report on the institution’s FPI findings.

APPA is also interested in learning who you consider your peers or cohort schools to be. The advisors can tailor a program on a single campus that would allow your peers to attend the same training so that all cohort schools can participate in the FPI survey and compare metrics and benchmarks with each other. The FPI allows participants to view three years’ worth of data and, if all cohort schools participated year after year, the data would only become more essential and robust for benchmarking purposes.

Large state system schools can consider all the individual campuses that comprise the state system as cohorts or peers. APPA did this successfully with the University of North Carolina System (refer to “FPI Lights the Way for the UNC System” in this issue of Facilities Manager), and APPA is currently working on a similar initiative with California State University System schools. Your cohort may not necessarily be a state system; it may be your athletic conference, a consortium of private liberal arts schools, or another affiliated group altogether.

The fees for the FPI Advisor program are based on the requested training needs of the school. APPA does offer all-inclusive training packages for individual schools and for state system schools, or other recognized cohorts.

The FPI is now a member benefit and as such, the survey and the accompanying report will be free for all members that fully participate in the survey. (Non-participating member institutions may purchase the final report at a discount from the nonmember price.) APPA will also unveil the newly created Essential Question Set on this year’s FPI survey. Our participating members provided APPA with a set of questions they felt every facilities manager needed to have answered in order to share the information with campus decision makers. This Essential Question Set will dramatically reduce the number of data fields needed to tell a complete story, and it will simplify the data input process.

The hope is that every campus will place a higher value on this member service by participating fully in the FPI year after year. APPA also believes that the FPI is a powerful tool when used not only as an internal benchmarking tool but also as a comparison tool with (continued on page 53)
This book provides a clear set of definitions of property management terms with important points of how each interrelates to other terms and the overall property management profession. The A-Z of Facilities and Property Management is written by a British author so there are several terms and references more appropriate for international APPA members.

Despite some terms and references that may not match U.S. laws exactly, there are still several points made that apply to any nation. There is a significant focus on leases on both the landlord and tenant sides and property transfers. Issues of default responsibilities for problems if they are not addressed specifically in the contract are discussed. To avoid default responsibilities, general steps or investigations prior to entering into a land contract are also discussed including environmental investigations, zoning, or renovations.

While the author is not an attorney, this reference had an overall feel of legal aspects to property transactions and management. Current issues of terrorism, contingency planning, and security are presented and connected to other property issues.

The overall format is clear but sometimes strained. There was a strong need to provide a term for every letter of the alphabet so some letters only had one term presented and the letter “Q,” with no appropriate term, had a quiz instead. Despite the format, this book will be helpful for facility officers who manage a significant number of leases or property transfers. However, this reference is no substitute for good legal advice when executing any contract.

Kevin Folsom is APPA’s vice president for professional affairs and the director of facilities and plant operations at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX; he can be reached at kfolsom@dts.edu. Ted Weidner is assistant vice chancellor of facilities management & planning at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; he can be reached at tweidner2@unlnotes.unl.edu.

Christina Hills is APPA’s research specialist and can be reached at christina@appa.org. This is her first article for Facilities Manager.

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VDA Baltimore Office:
4692 Millennium Drive, Suite 102
Belcamp, MD 21017-1535
Phone: 877-931-5012
E-mail: bbell@vdassoc.com
www.vdassoc.com