



Office of the President

December 28, 2022

Daemen University
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to follow-up on the email sent from Senior Vice President Naylor on December 25th. Power was restored to campus in the early evening of December 26th. While we took many steps to try to prevent damage to campus, we did have a pipe burst on the 3rd floor of Duns Scotus causing extensive damage to the building. This damage is concentrated primarily on the 1st and 2nd floors, but affects almost every area. The damage also made the east side elevator (near our campus apartments) non-operational at this time.

We were able to get Stohl Environmental Services in the next day to evaluate and develop a restitution plan, which we are still finalizing, and we have notified those whose offices have been directly affected.

There are still many details to work out, but in order to err on the side of caution we are going to close DS while remediation work is being done. Older buildings potentially contain asbestos, and we want to ensure that abatement is done safely. The company will isolate key areas, and we will relocate all services from the building to either temporary or remote locations, depending on their function. As that plan is finalized, a message will come out from the Emergency Response Team with details on those temporary changes. Due to the damage and for people's safety, we are asking people to stay out of DS as we are in this "pre-work phase." In short order, we will post adequate signage designating where people can go.

All intersession classes scheduled for DS have been re-scheduled; a notice from the Registrar will be coming out shortly with that information. While much of the damage is what we would describe as cosmetic, we want to do it safely and efficiently. The main goal here is to get any abatement work done before Spring 2023 classes start so that we can use significant portions of the building for classes and labs. We believe that this timeline is achievable. In the meantime, the ERT will be working to implement a backup plan.

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This incident is certainly unfortunate, but I would note that it could have been significantly worse. At this time, networks have not been damaged, technology is working, and no one was injured. It has been a lot of work over what is supposed to be a holiday and break for people.

I want to thank our dedicated members of the ERT who have been working tirelessly to keep students safe and ensure continued operation of our campus.

Due to the unforeseen expenses associated with this extensive damage, we are instituting a spending freeze immediately, except for extraordinary needs approved in advance and in writing by the appropriate Cabinet member.

We will share more updates as we can. Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson
President