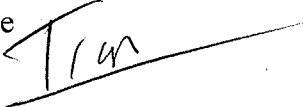


Memorandum

February 28, 2011

To: Elliot Hirshman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lynne Schaffer, Vice President, Administration and Finance

From: The Professional Staff Senate
Timothy Sparklin, President



Re: Implementation of Inclement Weather Policy on January 26, 2011

During the February 17, 2011, Professional Staff Senate meeting, several Senators expressed concern with the implementation of the Inclement Weather Policy on January 26, 2011. A notice went out to the campus stating classes were canceled as of 4:00 pm, which effectively allowed faculty and students to leave campus at that time or before. However, since the University was not closed—only classes were canceled—staff members were expected to stay and work the remainder of the day as the weather conditions worsened and driving conditions became unsafe. Several Senators reported that their offices were contacted by University leadership and staff and were told they could not close their offices early because the campus was not closed.

As you know, there are over 1,000 staff members on UMBC's campus who travel from many locations throughout Maryland and beyond. We understand there are many factors to take into account when implementing the Inclement Weather Policy, and that, even in times of weather events, the needs of on-campus students are important to serve. But we on the Senate are concerned that the message sent to the campus that day reflected a lack of concern for the safety of staff members. With safety being a campus priority, and given predictions of dangerous travel conditions in the afternoon, it seems to us that non-essential staff might have been released on administrative or liberal leave along with faculty and students.

Please let us know how the Senate may aid in the dissemination of information about this (or any other policy) and with the crafting of messages for the future.