

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students -

Yesterday we cancelled classes and campus offices in response to the extreme winter weather that hit the area. We did not make this decision or communicate the information to you in as timely a fashion as should have happened.

I personally am sorry for this. We are taking steps to help assure that in the future the decision will be made to cancel classes more quickly - and once that decision is made, transmit that information to the Ferris community more effectively.

Today, January 31st, University offices and departments involved in making these decisions will meet to review our policies and procedures regarding canceling classes. Similarly those areas responsible for communicating this information will also review the steps they take to make sure that the entire Ferris community is informed. Their charge is clear - to assure the safety of every University member when it becomes necessary to suspend our students' desire to learn, and the equally powerful desire on the part of our faculty and staff to provide the best possible environment in which that learning can take place.

I know that many of you - students, faculty and staff alike - live outside Big Rapids. And even those of you who live in the area are equally at the mercy of adverse conditions. Whether you had to drive or walk to your classroom or office yesterday, I understand if you felt the University was not looking out for you. I promise you that any failure stemmed from coordinating the closure of the University, and absolutely not from any lack of concern for you or your safety.

Our mission is to provide the best possible environment for learning to take place, not to endanger those in the classroom - or traveling to or from campus. We have worked hard to develop the right policies and communication channels to shut down the University when necessary and let the Ferris community know as quickly as possible when that decision has been made. Starting today, we are again reviewing our policies and communication outlets to make certain we better assure the safety of everyone who lives, studies or works on campus.

Again, please accept my apologies for yesterday's shortcomings in making the closure decision in a timely fashion and in communicating that decision to you.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President