Winter Weather Closures

Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and guests requiring physical access to the University of Nebraska at Omaha ("UNO") campus.

Policy Statement

Decisions to close the UNO campus, or specific campus buildings, including late start times or early dismissals, will be made by the UNO Chancellor with the guidance of the Chancellor's Winter Weather Committee.

The Chancellor's Winter Weather Committee serves at the behest of the UNO Chancellor and is comprised of senior level administrators as well as a wide-ranging group of advisors from key constituencies and units responsible for campus operations.

Reason for Policy

As Omaha's premier metropolitan university, UNO is responsible for educating the next generation of world leaders. UNO is also a significant economic driver and community asset with thousands of employees and spaces utilized daily by community members and organizations.

Due to UNO's geographical location in the Midwest, portions of the Fall and Spring academic terms are at higher risk for severe winter weather that can significantly impact physical campus operations and increase safety risks due to snow, ice, freezing temperatures, high winds and other issues identified by the National Weather Service as hazardous.

In order to ensure that UNO fulfills its educational mission while also accounting for unplanned severe weather, the Chancellor's Winter Weather Committee ("Committee") is tasked with assessing and recommending to the Chancellor decisions regarding the suspension of campus operations if weather conditions become hazardous.
Procedures

Committee Structure

The Chancellor's Winter Weather Committee is designed to provide recommendations to the Chancellor on the status of campus operations due to hazardous winter weather. Representatives from the following campus units or representative bodies will help provide consultation to the Committee in their recommendation to the Chancellor: Academic Affairs; Business and Finance; Facilities; Faculty Senate; Human Resources; Public Safety; Student Government; Staff Advisory Council; University Communications. Additionally, any member of the Committee is able to request the temporary or permanent addition of another committee member for additional consultation, with a confirmation of said addition being subject to a majority agreement of existing committee members. For permanent recommendations, approval by the Chancellor is also required.

Committee meetings and tasks are to be managed by Committee Co-Chairs who are to be selected from University Communications and Public Safety units unless otherwise collectively decided by the Committee or Chancellor.

Committee Selection

Each year the Committee Co-Chairs will confer with the above-named units to identify the individuals who will represent those units.

Committee Meetings

Committee Meetings can be initiated at any time by the Chancellor, one of the Vice Chancellors, or one of the Committee Co-Chairs.

Decisions

In the event of Severe Winter Weather, the Committee is tasked with providing a recommendation to the Chancellor in two areas: suspending regularly scheduled classes and/or suspending normal campus operations.

Decisions made to either temporarily suspend regularly scheduled classes or temporarily suspend campus operations will be made by factoring in, but not limited to: weather advisories/warnings, campus conditions, off-campus road conditions, wind chill and available campus resources.

The suspension of regularly scheduled classes can occur for a portion or all of a particular day (or days) depending on weather conditions. The suspension of campus operations can occur through a full closure, delayed start, or early release. Any decisions to suspend campus operations will automatically include the suspension of regularly scheduled classes.

Decisions to suspend campus operations will not impact any courses that are delivered digitally. These courses will be adjusted - as needed - by their respective instructors.

Once a decision or decisions are made by the Chancellor, that decision - and all supplemental information - will be shared with the campus and larger community through the UNO website, email, social media, text alerts, and through local news outlets. Until such a message is shared, all regularly scheduled classes and campus operations are considered to be active.

In the event of Severe Winter Weather approaching during normal business hours, every attempt will be made to decide on campus operations prior to 3 p.m., subject to changing weather conditions.

In the event of Severe Winter Weather approaching during the evening or overnight hours, every attempt will be made to decide on campus operations prior to 5 a.m., subject to changing weather conditions.

Definitions

“Severe Winter Weather” is defined as adverse winter weather conditions that can bring low temperatures, ice, sleet, freezing rain, snow and strong winds. These usually involve designations from the National Weather Service in the form of Winter Storm Advisories, Watches and Warnings.
Additional Contacts

Any individual with specific questions about how a decision regarding severe winter weather may impact them is encouraged to direct their questions to the contacts below based on their association with UNO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Questions</td>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
<td>402.554.3523</td>
<td><a href="mailto:unostudentaffairs@unomaha.edu">unostudentaffairs@unomaha.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Questions</td>
<td>Academic Affairs</td>
<td>402.554.2906</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asargus@unomaha.edu">asargus@unomaha.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Questions</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>402.554.2321</td>
<td><a href="mailto:unohr@unomaha.edu">unohr@unomaha.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Questions</td>
<td>Navigation Station</td>
<td>402.554.2800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ucomm@unomaha.edu">ucomm@unomaha.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Related Information

- [Work Schedule](#)
- [Electronic Messaging](#)

History

New draft policy.