



Office of the President

April 11, 2017

Daemen College
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the state has just passed its 2017 budget, which includes the Governor’s Excelsior (“Free Tuition”) Scholarship Program for students attending SUNY and CUNY institutions. The program establishes a number of restrictions on participants:

The student must maintain 30 credit hours a year, earn a GPA sufficient for re-graduation, and agree to live and work in New York State upon graduation for the same duration that a student received an Excelsior Scholarship. If a student meets all other requirements but fails to maintain 30 credits, that student will receive the award for the first semester of that year but will be ineligible for future payments. Failure to reside in the state will convert the grant into a loan.

It is too early to determine how this new program will affect Daemen College, but many college presidents throughout the state are anticipating a loss and potentially a critical loss of students beginning with the 2018 academic year. The Cabinet and other Daemen officials are analyzing the situation and working to devise a plan to stem the anticipated loss of students. We are taking all appropriate measures to prepare the College for possible negative fallout on both enrollment and on Daemen’s overall financial aid budget. I will keep you informed as we develop a clearer understanding of the impact on the college.

In the meantime, I am announcing a temporary spending and hiring freeze. For the remainder of the 2016-17 fiscal year, which ends May 31st, each Cabinet member is charged with curbing all unnecessary, unencumbered spending as well as new staff appointments. Departments must obtain the written permission of the appropriate Cabinet member for all new spending. I ask that all departments refrain from requesting exemptions unless absolutely necessary.

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This temporary pause in spending will afford the College some time to reflect on the potential
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