

University administrative offices temporarily relocated throughout campus

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ALFRED The president&s, provost&s and Business and Finance offices at Alfred University will be temporarily relocated while a mold problem at Carnegie Administration Building is remediated.

The moves will begin as soon as appropriate temporary spaces can be identified and made ready with installation of additional electrical outlets, phones and internet connections. The Business and Finance offices will be the first to be relocated.

In a memo to campus Thursday afternoon, President Charles M. Edmondson stressed that the levels of mold detected were not alarming, and that the decision to move all employees out of Carnegie was a precaution. “We will not knowingly expose anyone to even minor risks to their health,” President Edmondson said. “ Accordingly, all employees located in Carnegie will be moved to other spaces on campus on a temporary basis.”

Initial estimate is that the work, which will include demolition of existing walls and ceilings on the ground floor of the building; finding and repairing the source of water infiltration that is causing the mold; and renovation of the space, will take two to three months.

Michael Neiderbach, executive director of capital operations and legal affairs for the University, said the timeframe could be extended, depending upon the results of additional testing. Because of the age of the building it was built in 1912 as a public library it is likely any demolition and reconstruction work would disturb asbestos-containing materials and therefore would require abatement. Further tests will also determine if mold is detectable on other floors of the building.

The vice president for Student Affairs, the dean of students, and their staff had relocated to the Powell Campus Center last summer in an unrelated move. The third floor of Carnegie is now used only for storage.

Test results received on Thursday week confirmed the presence of mold in ground floor offices occupied by the Business and Finance division, Neiderbach said. Only some of the offices showed signs of mold, Neiderbach said, and levels ranged from 200, which is considered normal, to 3,600, a reading obtained in the vault, which is unoccupied space. To put the readings into perspective, Neiderbach said, below 250 is considered a normal reading; 250-1000 is considered borderline; 1000-5000 is considered “active sporulation,” meaning the mold is growing and spreading, and 5000 and above is considered “very active.”