An email from Nick Nicklaus, Director of UW-L Residence Life

10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012

Dear Drake residents:

I'm writing with very important news regarding the status of Drake Hall for the remainder of the semester. Based on information we have just received from the engineering, mechanical and safety consultants who have been inspecting Drake over the past few days, we have learned that we will be unable to move any students back into Drake for the remainder of the semester. I know this news will come as a major disappointment to you, but we have no choice in the matter, as we can't allow students to reoccupy a building that is neither safe nor clean. We regret the inconveniences this will cause and appreciate your patience as we continue the process of finding alternative living arrangements for all Drake residents.

Due to the scope of the fire and the significance of the repairs that need to be made, we need to proceed with a plan to remove all personal belongings from the building so that each and every room can be deep cleaned by ServPro, a fire cleanup and restoration company. This is incredibly disheartening and a major inconvenience for you but we have no choice but to have all Drake Hall students and staff completely move out of the building.

This process needs to occur rather quickly so that we can move forward with the cleaning process and the repairing of all mechanical systems that have been compromised, including the fire alarm system, and continued assessment of the building structure.

In order to make this process work, the following times have been set aside for you to remove ALL of your possessions from your room. We do realize what this means for you but we have no choice. We will provide large plastic trash bags and boxes for this move.

We also plan to solicit volunteers from our campus community to serve on a Drake Hall Move-out Crew to help move your things. It is suggested that you contact your parents/guardians or others to help you move out as you may wish to move some of your items home as opposed to your new assigned home.

The following move out schedule has been established:

Friday, February 3rd (noon - 6:00pm)
Saturday, February 4th (10:00am - 6:00pm)
Sunday, February 5th (10:00am - 6:00pm)

Friday, February 10th (noon - 6:00pm)
Saturday, February 11th (10:00am - 6:00pm)
Sunday, February 12th (10:00am - 6:00pm)

As items are removed from your room, it is recommended that your items be thoroughly cleaned before they are placed in your new living environment to minimize cross contamination. Information is included below about companies that we have made arrangements with to work with you on this if you choose to use them. These costs could be claimed through your parents’ home owners insurance so you should be checking with your parents. Local storage is available if you need to store larger items.

If you have special needs that require additional assistance with the move out process, please contact the Office of Residence Life. While we cannot alter the move out deadline, we can provide assistance in the move out process.

(OVER)
We are in the process of assigning all of you who indicated on the Google form yesterday that you needed assistance in finding a more permanent place to stay. We have had a tremendous amount of support through the campus community offering their homes for you to stay in and even more impressive from your peers in other buildings who are opening up their rooms to having a 3rd roommate. We are moving bed frames, mattresses and dressers into rooms today to be ready for those of you that choose this option. This is a cumbersome process and needs to be done in an organized and methodical manner. You will be informed of your new assignment at the all hall meeting tonight THURSDAY 2/2/12, 7:30 pm, VALHALLA A, CC to discuss all of the above in addition to responding to your questions.

We will continue to work with the Drake Hall staff and leadership teams to keep your hall and cube communities connected via programs, activities, and common gathering spaces throughout the semester.

Some additional information:

- Text book rental is available for you to replace your texts due to smoke.
- The Health Center will help you replace, refill, or dispose of any compromised medications.
- We want you to get back to a regular routine; the Counseling Center will continue to provide a support group.
- An area in the lower level of Cartwright Center (former Career Services and Academic Advising Center), just past the Cellar, has been reserved for Drake Hall students to study, gather, and stay connected. There is some group space, individual study carrels and wireless Internet connection.

Cleaning companies:

- Clothing/Linens/Textile items: **Certified Restoration Drycleaning Service (CRDN) 608-784-0946**
- Computers/Laptops/Electronics/TVs/Stereos/Appliances: **AVR 866-512-2600**
- Anything else not covered above: **ServPro of La Crosse County 608-786-0387**

Thank you for your continued cooperation during this crisis and your spirit, resiliency, and care for one another has been inspirational. If you have individual concerns or questions, please contact the Office of Residence Life (785-8075).