

Web Submissions 2/11/25

Idea/question

There's no hot water in the restrooms on the ground and first floor of Maryland Hall. The water is freezing cold, even before this cold snap.

rationale reason

I mentioned this in the fall and it was suggested we submit an inquiry to facilities. Our admin submitted a work order, see details below. A facilities person came out and said "It just has to run a while." I ran the water in the first floor ladies room for 5 minutes - NO hot water or even warm water came out.

We have followed up on this issue and confirmed operation of the hot water heater. The plumbing team has identified the hot water recirculation pump as the possible issue. We have ordered a replacement, to be installed once it arrives and made an adjustment to the flow rate of the existing pump. I will update once pump has been replaced.

Idea/question

Parking issues around Maryland Hall

rationale reason

If I come into the office later than 9 am, it's difficult to impossible to find a parking spot. Are more students driving? Perhaps with the cold weather however this was happening last year too. What are the plans to address the lack of parking near Maryland Hall and Humanities building.

Response: We understand that parking near Maryland Hall and the Humanities Building can be tight, especially during peak times. As part of the ongoing 2025 University of Richmond Campus-Wide Plan (URCP), parking is a key focus, and the URCP Steering Committee will provide updates as they come available. Even with potential improvements to parking, it is not feasible to guarantee that we will always be able to park in the lot closest to our building.

Idea/question

Employee Privacy: Injury/Disability

rationale reason

What is the policy allowing senior UR leadership to announce (in a staff meeting) the physical injury that an employee has sustained? Is it permitted for them to share personal/private medical information about another colleague, without consent? Is the employee not entitled to a right of privacy?

Response: The University takes privacy and confidentiality seriously and encourages leaders to follow best practices when handling sensitive information. In some situations, it may be necessary to share the minimum amount of information required to address operational needs or workplace accommodations. Even in these cases, it is considered

Idea question

As the city and Henrico County conduct post-mortems and investigate how to make their water infrastructure more resilient, are we considering ways to do so as well, such as making an infrastructure upgrade to be able to connect to county water or whether getting some kind of backup water purification system would be feasible?

Response: At the University of Richmond, we are fortunate to have two main domestic water sources, one from the County of Henrico and the other from the City of Richmond, which sets us apart from most campuses or buildings that typically rely on just one provider. This unique setup provides an added layer of redundancy, but we still recognize the importance of ongoing efforts to enhance our resilience against water outages.

Regarding your question about future resilience efforts:

- **Lessons Learned from Recent Outage:**
 - The recent water outage has provided valuable insights, and we've made updates to our continuity and emergency response plans to ensure we are prepared for water disruptions in the future.
 - As part of this, we have an ongoing project where we are installing sub-meters outside of our main water meters to help us better understand water demand across different parts of the campus. This will assist us in pinpointing areas where higher demand may exist, so we can address potential vulnerabilities and improve our planning.
 - We have also recently made improvements to our heating and cooling infrastructure to utilize optimal water usage that would benefit our operations during adverse circumstances
- **Exploring Further Resilience Options:**
 - While we have the dual water sources from both Henrico County and the City of Richmond, we are continuously evaluating ways to further bolster our water resilience. This includes exploring the feasibility of potential infrastructure upgrades that may allow for even greater flexibility in connecting to either the City or County's systems, with the aim of having access to water even if one source experiences an outage.
- **Backup Water Supply:**
 - As part of our emergency response and continuity plan, we maintain a surplus of bottled water to meet immediate needs during emergency situations.
 - We have established ongoing strategic partnerships with third-party suppliers who prioritize the University, ensuring prompt access to critical resources—whether for operational or infrastructural needs.
 - In times of need, we rely on these trusted vendors to swiftly deliver essential supplies and support, helping us manage any disruptions effectively

Overall, while we have a solid foundation in terms of water infrastructure, we continue to assess ways to enhance our resilience, learn from past experiences, and plan for the future.