
ROSEMONT COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Effective Date: 1/28/08	Date Revised:	
Climate Committee Approval: Yes 1/16/08		

POLICY:

Indoor Space Temperature Guidelines

Rosemont College, depending upon the time of the year, sets forth targeted interior space temperature ranges in commonly (temperature controlled) zoned areas for academic, administrative spaces, and residence halls.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The policy provides the College a number of benefits from various viewpoints. Pragmatically, the policy provides a formalized standard on indoor temperature ranges to be expected by building occupants depending upon season. It provides the facilities department a documented policy to implement indoor temperatures, which will help to alleviate environmental comfort complaints, with regard to temperature. Without the policy, occupants might not know that these temperatures are consistent with policies of our peer institutions and with research performed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). More importantly, enforcement of the policy will prevent inefficient and wasteful operation of equipment from occurring.

From a financial perspective, the policy reduces utility costs associated with the consumption of energy generated from electricity or the burning of fossil fuels. The policy is a change from current practice where the temperature has been several degrees warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Finally, the policy supports the College's educational mission and commitment to environmental stewardship and the President's Climate Commitment. Energy reduction resulting from this measure helps to curtail global social and environmental impacts, including the country's dependency on foreign fossil fuels, and reduces the production of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

Select building uses, such as computer room applications, require special indoor design environments outside of those established within this policy. It is not the intent of this policy to limit or not support these applications. This policy is not geared towards individually zoned offices or where there is agreement amongst all occupants on thermostat settings. Occupants knowledgeable in the benefits of energy conservation should determine where to set the dial.

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PROCEDURE:

Heating Season

The heating season generally is from mid-October to mid-May. Heat will be provided to maintain interior temperatures at approximately 70° F during normal occupied hours. In implementing this policy, the facilities department seeks to ensure that all heated spaces are as close to 70° F as possible. In practical terms, this means temperatures may be in the 68-72° F range. During off-hours, temperatures may be allowed to drop to as cold as 55° F. A temperature of 68° F has been researched by ASHRAE (Standard 55 - Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy) to be comfortable for most people (10% dissatisfaction rate) who are dressed appropriately for the season. Temperature readings are taken at the thermostat or desk level.

Cooling Season

The cooling season generally is from May to October. Cooling is provided to maintain air conditioned facilities at 76° during normal occupied hours. During off-hours, temperatures may rise above this level. In implementing this policy, the facilities department seeks to ensure that all air conditioned spaces are as close to 76° F as possible, without being higher than that threshold. In practical terms, this means temperatures may be in the 74-78° F range. Temperatures in the 74-78° F range should be comfortable for most people (10% dissatisfaction rate) who are dressed appropriately for the season, as researched by ASHRAE (Standard 55 - Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy). Temperature readings are taken at the thermostat or desk level.

Appendix

Seasonal Changes

In the spring and autumn, outside temperatures can be extremely variable. Statistics show that there are a couple of isolated days in the heating season that actually require cooling. The same is true for heat required in the cooling season. Please be aware that during these unpredictable days in the "intermediate" season, indoor temperatures might drift beyond the comfort guidelines in many buildings; little can be done, other than to endure the event. In the event of a severe cold spell, all heating services will be turned on as quickly as possible.

Unoccupied Hours

Some buildings have designated occupied hours. To help save energy, the building temperatures may be changed from the normal operating set points during expected unoccupied hours (after hours temperature setback).