



Office of the President

November 18, 2021

Daemen College
Staff Members

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with some good news, and to ask for your help on behalf of the college.

A longtime goal has been to change our name from Daemen College to Daemen University. In every state in the union except one—New York—we would have been able to have done this long ago, but our state tightly regulates which institutions can be called a university, based on an old and, frankly, academically questionable definition.

This unnecessary and arbitrary regulation has disadvantaged many private colleges throughout the state. It severely restricts our ability to recruit international students, adversely affects federal funding for research, and places public universities in a competitively advantageous position over many of the state's private colleges.

The Board of Regents of the state of New York—the body that oversees higher education in the state—is considering a proposed change to the definition of university and is soliciting public comment. Adopting this definition would be very beneficial for Daemen should we one day wish to change our name. This is the proposed version:

“University means a higher educational institution offering a range of registered undergraduate and graduate curricula in the liberal arts and sciences, including graduate programs registered in at least three of the following discipline areas: agriculture, biological sciences, business, education, engineering, fine arts, health professions, humanities, physical sciences and social sciences.”

We are asking everyone to consider submitting feedback in support of this new definition. Comments should be sent to this address: regcomments@nysed.gov

Feel free to reach out to the Chief of Staff, Amanda Gross, should you have any questions: agross@daemen.edu.

Thanks very much for your assistance.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Gary A. Olson', is written over the printed name.

Gary A. Olson