



January 16, 2003

TO: All Chairs, Deans, Directors, and Department Heads

FROM: Timothy R. Kellogg, Manager
Business Services

RE: 15-Passenger Vans

Every year several college students are killed and others severely injured in rollover accidents involving 15-passenger vans. The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued consumer advisory warnings, both in 2001 and in 2002, concerning the increased rollover risks associated with these vans. States that have capped liability awards for judgments involving auto accidents are beginning to lift those caps for awards involving 15-passenger vans, and many insurance carriers are beginning to cancel liability coverage on these vehicles.

All of the reasons mentioned above are legitimate reasons for limiting the use of these vehicles at Western Michigan University. However, the primary reason is for the safety and well being of our faculty, staff, and students. Therefore, I have recommended to Vice President Beam to discontinue the use of all 15-passenger vans effective March 1, 2003, and he has agreed.

Effective immediately, Enterprise will no longer be scheduling the use of 15-passenger vans by Western Michigan University departments. Those that currently have these types of vans already scheduled should contact Enterprise and make alternative arrangements, contingent on vehicle availability at Enterprise.

I understand that these are difficult times here at Western Michigan University as far as budgets go, but I hope we can all agree that the safety of our faculty, staff, and students is our highest priority.

Also, we have made some recent arrangements with Enterprise to help offset what in some cases may be an additional burden financially to departments. For example, Enterprise currently charges \$94.00 per day for its 15-passenger vans, but they have agreed to offer a mini van and a full size car for \$100.00 a day. For larger groups, the rate for three mini vans is actually \$11.00 less per day than two 15-passenger vans. Please refer to the attached chart of rates when making arrangements with Enterprise. Hopefully you will find the rates will not be as much of a hardship as you may have anticipated.

I appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we take this step to help ensure the safety of our faculty, staff, and students.

If you have any questions concerning this issue, please feel free to contact me at 387-4827.

TK/lv

cc: Lowell Rinker, Associate Vice President for Business