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Good day,

I teach at the UMS campuses: USM in Portland and Gorham. I have done so since 2008. I am writing to share my experiences regarding the question at hand. I have found that student success is compromised due to the poor conditions of buildings at USM, particularly Payson Smith Hall, where, as noted above, I have taught students since 2008. For example, the heating and cooling (when available) do not work correctly. Classrooms are too hot or too cold. Students open windows for relief from too-hot classrooms even in the winter. This is a terrible waste of fuel resources, which, in turn, contribute to emissions, especially considering that these large buildings run in this state 24/7. I also note that the windows do not function properly and cannot be opened. For windows that can be opened, many are unable to be closed. All of this sends a negative message to students: their well-being is not a priority. Their learning experience is not valued. They are expected to be uncomfortable. It also sends the message that energy efficiency and conservation are not a priority for the UMS. The bathrooms in Payson Smith are also in shambles. There are holes in the floor and the walls with loose and missing tiles, and the restrooms are never clean.