

May 28, 2016

In the past several days, a number of intimidating incidents have created an unsettled and tense campus environment in which many students feel aggrieved and in many cases fear for their personal safety. These acts are abhorrent to our community values and antithetical to everything we all hold dear. The incidents currently under investigation include the volatile events of Tuesday evening; online and phone harassment of students, faculty, and staff; profane leaflets found in one of the Lincoln Park Campus buildings; and the discovery of what appears to be a noose on a campus sidewalk.

We are investigating all actions of harassment against members of our community and will seek out those responsible and hold them accountable.

We are continuing to develop suggestions for those whose voicemail, emails and social media are being targeted by outside hate groups and will share remedies early next week.

While these are being addressed, we must make it our primary objective that everyone at DePaul -- students, faculty, and staff -- feel cared for and protected. We cannot emphasize enough how important this is to the well-being of our community.

Here are some specific steps DePaul is taking to address safety concerns:

- * There are additional Public Safety patrols on campus grounds.
- * The escort service at Lincoln Park has been expanded to 24 hours, within the campus boundaries. Please be aware that this could be a walking escort and that request volume and other activities could increase wait times. To request the service, call 773-325-SAFE(7233).
- * Student Affairs staff have increased their visibility and engagement. Look for them around campus wearing their name tags, particularly during class change times. All staff and faculty are encouraged to be as visible and accessible as possible during this difficult period.
- * Information tables have been set up at the Lincoln Park and Loop campuses. These will be staffed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4-6 p.m. The goal is to be actively accessible to students with questions, concerns, or feedback.

Staff from other departments and faculty wanting to help Student Affairs in staffing the tables or assisting in other ways should contact the department at studentaffairs@depaul.edu or 312-362-5680.

We encourage everyone to "Take Care DePaul" -- to be mindful, report any direct threats against individuals to Public Safety, and reach out to Student Affairs, faculty, and staff -- and each other -- for support.

Sincerely,

Gene Zdziarski
Vice President for Student Affairs

Marten denBoer
Provost

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