Dear Campus Community:

As chancellor, one of my foremost responsibilities is the safety of our campus. I am therefore writing to apprise you of steps we are taking to implement the new emergency notification system. This service enables rapid emergency communications to the entire campus community via a variety of technologies, including text messaging, e-mail, and voice mail. For the system to be effective, the active participation of every member of our UCR community is essential.

We have previously encouraged you to sign up by providing your personal communication information. While the voluntary response has been encouraging, it has fallen far short of the level required to achieve the level of safety we all want. If you followed the news of the recent tragedy at Northern Illinois University, you know that that campus’ emergency notification system functioned to provide the entire campus community with updates every 15 minutes. UCR, too, has that capacity for notification, but it will work only if all members of our campus community have joined the system.

I have therefore asked our emergency planners to develop an approach that will assure that every student, staff, and faculty member is offered a choice to either “opt in” or “opt out” of this service. This means that you simply visit the following web site, log in, and make a decision about participating in UCR’s emergency notification system. I encourage you to take a moment and do so now:

http://growl.ucr.edu/

Beginning March 22nd of this year, when students sign on to GROWL, a formal decision to opt-in or opt-out of the emergency notification system will be required prior to proceeding with your online activity. If you have already elected an option, you will be allowed to proceed with your transaction. Otherwise, you will be prompted to make a choice.

Over the course of the coming months, we will be testing the system to ensure that it works. We will do this incrementally, with adequate notice to assure that we do not inadvertently cause alarm. More details of that testing will be provided in the near future.

No system of communication is guaranteed to reach every individual under every set of circumstances, so we will continue to assess our communication strategies over time and augment our capabilities as we believe it would benefit the campus. In addition, we continue to implement other safety measures, as described in the attachment.

I thank you for taking a moment to sign up for the best system currently at our disposal.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Grey
Acting Chancellor
Environmental Health and Safety:
- Appointment of a full time Emergency Manager responsible for integrating all of the various efforts across the campus to assure preparedness for a wide variety of emergencies.
- Addition of two positions to the Fire Marshall’s office so that we can focus extra effort on critical and high workload areas in fire prevention through design and inspection.

UCR Police Department:
- All UCR police officers have been trained in emergency response, including active shooter training.
- Close partnership with the Riverside Police Department (RPD) to form the University Neighborhood Enhancement Team (UNET). UCPD and RPD officers patrol neighborhoods near the campus to enhance the safety of the campus.
- Two recent additions to our Police force at UCR brings us slightly above the systemwide ratio of officers to total community members (students, staff and faculty).
- Placement of three dozen “Blue Light” phones in parking lots to provide emergency communications with immediate and direct connection to the UCPD dispatcher.

Vice Chancellor Student Affairs:
- Expansion of student mental health services. As a result, the level of UCR’s psychological and psychiatric care available to our students is in line with nationally prescribed student/staff ratios.
- The UCR Counseling Center has established a 24 hour, 7 day a week counseling service.
- Augmentation of campus outreach efforts to familiarize staff and faculty with effective identification, intervention, and referral of distressed students.
- Establishment of the Critical Student Incident Team to prevent high-risk situations of intimidation or violence from escalating to emergencies.
- A proposal is being submitted to the Campus Violence Prevention Program for resources to support campus-based initiatives.

Human Resources:
- The Faculty and Staff Assistance Program provides counseling and referral services to help employees cope with events such as workplace violence. This confidential assistance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Contact: (951) 781-0510
- UCR has a zero tolerance standard with respect to threatening statements or behavior; the Prevention of Violence in the Workplace Policy establishes procedures for reporting and handling threatening behavior. An on-line training
has been created to help to equip staff and faculty to deal with potentially violent situations.

**Emergency Contact Information:**

- Student assistance: 951-827-6095
- Faculty or staff assistance: 951-827-3196
- UCR Counseling Center: 951-827-5531
- UCR Police Department: 951-827-5222

Other emergencies: 911