A Message to the University Community

October 18, 2009

Early Sunday morning, we lost one of our students, Jasper Howard, to an act of violence.

Many of you know Jasper – a devoted son, friend, and promising student-athlete. Our community is grieving this loss and is distressed by the violence that it involved. We extend our deepest condolences to Jasper's family, friends, and teammates at this time of incredible sorrow.

I remain in close contact with the Governor's Office and our Department of Public Safety. I want to assure you that enormous efforts are being undertaken to investigate this crime.

Furthermore, the Police Department has stepped up patrols to ensure the ongoing safety of our community.

Governor Rell shares our sorrow and has offered any state resources that might be needed to respond effectively to this crime. Also, the UConn Police Department is working in close collaboration with State Police in their response.

I ask that we all cooperate with the Police as they pursue the investigation. If you have any information that may aid in their work, please call the UConn Police at (860) 486-4800.

Tragedies like this have a profound effect on us all, and can cause extraordinary grief — for some more deeply than others. Please reach out to those around you. Students, friends, and colleagues may feel anxious, depressed, or particularly sensitive at this time. Small acts of kindness can help them and strengthen our community, when we most need it. We have outstanding experts standing ready to assist students, faculty, and staff. If students are experiencing difficulty, they can call Counseling & Mental Health Services at (860) 486-4705. Professional assistance is also available to faculty and staff through UConn's Employee Assistance Program at (860) 679-2877.

As always, I appreciate the concern that all of you in our community display in moments like this. I'm grateful to all of you for the compassion I know you will share.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael J. Hogan
President
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