Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As everyone awaits the pending grand jury decision in the Michael Brown case, we are challenged to prepare for the unknown regarding the outcome and public reaction, including possible further unrest. At Harris-Stowe State University, we are aware of the potential impact on our community, once a grand jury decision is announced.

Be assured that HSSU has in place emergency civil disorder plans and the Campus Public Safety Department is prepared to work together with local authorities and other organizations to help keep you safe. HSSU has discussed the need for additional security and emergency communications with students, faculty, staff and local authorities. We have close communication contacts with the Governor’s office, the City and County police departments and their incident command units, as well as contacts with other colleges and universities in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. We will continually monitor events leading up to and following the grand jury announcement.

*If an incident of civil disobedience or violent protest occurs during or after business hours, whether announced or unannounced, the campus population, including residential students, is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to “SHELTER IN PLACE” in whichever building they are currently in. SHELTER IN PLACE means to stay in, or go into a building that can be secured, and stay away from windows. Choosing to leave a safe place inside of a building to join the protest or gathering can result in serious personal injury or death. It is best to remain sheltered until further notice by Public Safety or the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.*

If you have not done so already, I encourage you to sign up for our HSSU text alert service, also known as Twitter Alerts. You do NOT have to be a member of Twitter to participate. Simply create a new text on your mobile device. In the ‘to’ field, write 40404, and in the message field write, *Follow @hssualerts*, which will ensure that you receive the most up-to-date information about any special measures, any reported incidents or threats, or any campus closings. Should the need arise, we will also be communicating via email and the HSSU Website.

Peaceful and respectful demonstration will be allowed. However, should any violent acts such that result in destruction of property or injury to persons occur, Public Safety will work in tandem with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department or other law enforcement authorities to affect detainment and arrests of any violators.

There are many new and wonderful initiatives and community partnerships taking place at Harris-Stowe under the leadership of our new President, and while the media and the rest of the world anticipate unrest, we are not going to let that overshadow the HSSU paradigm shift!

Campus Public Safety Department

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