



Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Life

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SAFETY UPDATE – ECU

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The tragic events at Virginia Tech this week have prompted us to pull together all relevant parties on and off campus to review our policies and strategies relative to emergency situations at ECU. Chancellor Ballard and many staff in the Division of Student Life have made themselves available throughout the week for meetings with students, for responses to parents, for candlelight vigils, and for discussions on all aspects of safety. We will continue to seriously address the degree to which ECU is prepared to handle a similar disaster.

It is important to note that several months ago ECU formed a Safety Task Force and held a Safety Symposium to reflect the importance of these issues. The Chancellor, our Police Chief, our Safety Point Person and I participated recently in a teleconference with President Bowles to address what other strategies we could implement on our campuses. We feel that we have a number of safeguards in place; yet, we have more work to do to make our campus and its surroundings as safe as possible.

Our strengths include the following:

- The University has invested over \$1 million this year to enhance the capacity of our Police Department, security cameras, communication systems, and lighting.
- The ECU Police Department has lockdown policies and has run drills to test these policies.
- Our communication system includes the recent installation of a VIPER radio system that allows instant communication between the ECU and Greenville Police Departments.
- We have a pop-up alert system that activates on all computers when there is a reported incident.

- By this summer, we will have chosen a vendor to bring text messaging to students.
- Our residence halls are locked at all times. Safety procedures are discussed and practiced over the course of the year.
- Security cameras have been installed all over campus and are constantly monitored.
- We are placing a strong emphasis on a community policing philosophy to make law enforcement officials more visible.

As we move forward, we will put an emphasis on the continued need for educating our students, faculty, and staff about self-protection and the notification of authorities when behavior out of the norm is observed. On Monday, April 23rd, there is a scheduled meeting of the Greenville Police Department and all ECU personnel involved with campus safety. Be assured that we will constantly study and prepare for the unexpected.

Marilyn A. Sheerer
Vice Chancellor for Student Life