

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS AUTHORIZATION

PURPOSE

To define the various campus teams who are authorized to prepare for, evaluate and respond to critical or potentially critical and threatening incidents that occur on or at university grounds or events or significantly impact campus operations.

BACKGROUND

The University's emergency response and preparedness teams include two separate groups with distinctive but related responsibilities. These teams are the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and the Student Threat Assessment Team (STAT). Combining the expertise of key campus units, the University's crisis response teams meet regularly to coordinate responses to students at risk or potential risk for danger and to manage critical or potentially critical incidents on the campus.

POLICY

A. University Emergency Response Team (ERT)

1. The University Emergency Response Team (ERT) is authorized to provide overall management of any campus-wide emergency. The ERT initiates and implements the Emergency Response Plan providing overall coordination of emergency operations and communications before, during and after an emergency has occurred. The ERT is also responsible for planning and implementing regular training and practice drills of the University's Emergency Response Plan.
2. Members of the ERT include representatives from all divisions of the campus with leadership roles assigned to senior managers in Public Safety, Facilities, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Residential Life, Public Affairs, Finance and Administration, Community Relations, and the President's Office. ERT Managers meet monthly to plan and review policies and procedures and evaluate the effectiveness of emergency response services. The entire ERT meets each semester for review and training.
3. Members of the ERT are called upon to respond as necessary during campus emergencies and follow the protocols outlined within the Emergency Response Plan as directed by designated managers. All

ERT members are authorized to make decisions and carry out the procedures described within the plan.

B. University Student Threat Assessment Team (STAT)

1. The University Student Threat Assessment Team (STAT) is authorized to receive and review reports of potentially threatening, violent, or alarming behaviors exhibited by any student at the University. STAT has the authority to call upon additional resources as needed to evaluate the potential risks and coordinate an action plan for dealing with reported individuals who may be dangerous or threatening to the campus community.

STAT has full authority to act on behalf of the University and shall report actions to the University President through the Vice President for Student Affairs.

2. The Assistant Vice President for Affirmative Action and Human Resources may work closely with STAT in evaluating and responding to similar reports relative to potentially dangerous or threatening employees. Ultimately, the Assistant Vice President for Affirmative Action and Human Resources has the authority to intervene with employees pursuant to negotiated union agreements.
3. All members of the university community are expected to report threatening or potentially threatening student behaviors to STAT by contacting the Dean of Students (Chair, STAT) or by reporting to campus departments including Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Public Safety, or Residential Life. Behaviors that should be reported include, but are not limited to:
 - explicit verbal or written threats,
 - violent writings, drawings or other forms of expression,
 - behaviors that are disruptive and cause fear in others,
 - suicide risk or risk of other life threatening behaviors, or
 - expressed plans for violence.

REVIEW

The ultimate authority for this policy as well as any emergency preparedness and response lies with the President of the University. Review of this policy and its supporting documents will be done annually by the Emergency Response Team Managers.