



A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 17, 2016

Dear President Ransdell:

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the University Senate's Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee. For the last year our committee has collaborated with the Emergency Management Core Group, led by Dr. David Oliver, to develop and to provide faculty feedback on the Active Shooter training, "Run, Hide, Fight."

It was both our recommendation and our understanding that this training would be mandatory, done during Fall 2016 on a building-by-building basis for all full-time employees and also made available for our many adjunct and part-time colleagues. However, our faculty representative at the EMCG reports that the training has rolled out, but is being done on a "by request" basis. This is not appropriate for such a crucial training program.

Further, multiple searches using the WKU search engine failed to find a link to the training or a link to the form to request training. None of this is information we would have if a member of our committee did not have a seat on his steering group. Nor do department heads know that they can request this training.

Our largest concern, however, is that there is not going to be a campus wide, mandatory effort to train our employees how to deal with an unthinkable situation. Dr. Oliver has explained that there are financial issues with doing a mandatory campus wide training at this time.

Given that financial concerns seem to be an obstacle to this crucial campus education initiative, I write to urge you to allocate the funding and personnel resources to do three things:

- 1) Roll out mandatory, building-by-building training to accompany the debut of the "run, hide, fight" video. All parties agree that the video is not effective without the face-to-face building-specific training.
- 2) Make training mandatory for faculty and staff.
- 3) Develop a student-based version of this training immediately in collaboration with the relevant SGA committee(s). I've copied SGA President Jay Todd Richey on this letter for appropriate follow-up on the student training content and timeline.

The Spirit Makes the Master

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We greatly appreciate your immediate consideration of our request, and we join with you in hoping fervently that we never have to utilize any of the skills we learn from this training.

With best wishes,

Patti Minter

Chair, Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

cc: Dr. Kate Hudepohl, University Senate Chair

Dr. David Lee, Provost

Dr. Barbara Burch, Faculty Regent

Mr. Jay Todd Richey, SGA President and Student Regent

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