



[lc-bulletin@lclark.edu](mailto:lc-bulletin@lclark.edu) 11.30.22

## Update on Last Week's LC Alert

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Dear students, faculty, and staff,

We are writing to provide an update regarding the LC Alert sent late Thursday night. Many of you have raised questions and concerns about the necessity and appropriateness of the alert. President Holmes-Sullivan and the entire Executive Council share those concerns, have reviewed the incident, and want to share with you what we have learned so far.

### What happened prior to the alert?

At approximately 9:30 p.m. Thursday night, a resident of Copeland Hall called Campus Safety to report a person attempting to enter multiple residence hall rooms. Campus Safety responded, but was not able to locate the person believed to be responsible.

Later in the evening, Campus Safety received subsequent calls in which students again reported seeing or hearing one or more persons attempting to enter residence hall rooms, including the rooms in which the reporting students were themselves located. These subsequent calls were from both Copeland and Juniper halls.

Campus Safety again attempted to locate the persons of concern. Two persons were then observed in a Copeland Hall room that was not their own, and fled the scene.

It is standard Campus Safety protocol to contact Portland Police when there may be a crime in progress that poses a threat to student safety. Portland Police were called, arrived on campus, and interviewed witnesses, but were not able to conclusively identify any responsible parties.

It has now been substantiated that numerous rooms in at least two different residence halls were entered and that multiple items were stolen.

### Why and how was an alert sent?

The LC Alert was sent shortly after midnight. The college sends an LC Alert to all faculty, staff, and students when there may be an ongoing or imminent risk to members of our community. In fact, the college is obligated under the Jeanne Clery Act to issue a timely warning or emergency notification in such situations. In order to issue alerts quickly and effectively, we generally use the Rave Mobile Safety alert system to send messages via both text and email.

Although the circumstances for an alert to the campus were likely appropriate based on the facts known at the time, mistakes were made in the drafting, approving, and sending of the message. The message was not reviewed or approved by the interim director of campus safety, vice president for student life, or the communications office. At a minimum, the interim director of campus safety should have been included in this process.

## **What will we change going forward?**

We are committed to learning from this incident and doing better in the future. Not only did our process fail in this situation, but the use of racial identifiers in this case was unnecessary and not appropriate.

Including racial identifiers in alerts of this nature runs the risks of singling out an already marginalized group, creating a culture of fear and suspicion, reinforcing harmful stereotypes, reducing trust in Campus Safety, and misidentifying or profiling based on race. In this situation, the use of racial descriptors, without any additional specific and verified context, was unnecessary and should not have happened.

We will develop a specific LC Alerts policy that maximizes the use of approved templates and that limits the use of racial or gender identifiers to situations where it is necessary to provide objective and verifiable descriptions in situations involving a significant threat.

We will clarify the approval process for the issuance of alerts that includes clear, standardized steps.

We will improve the training of those who are involved in issuing emergency alerts and timely warnings, improve the training of staff involved in the Student Affairs On-Call system, and improve training regarding issues of implicit and systemic bias.

And we will continue to listen to members of our campus community about how we can better communicate when there are concerns about the safety of our campus.

We apologize that an LC Alert was issued in this manner. We are sorry for how this has impacted our community and will work to prevent this from happening again.

Thank you,

Evette Castillo Clark, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students  
Bill Curtis, Interim Director of Campus Safety