

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2015

Dear FIU Family:

Global, national and local violence continue to take their tolls directly on victims, and on the fabric of civility and comity that we depend upon so that our families, friends, and neighborhoods may live in harmony and have the well-being they deserve.

The past several days are stark reminders about the fragility of life and the urgency to recommit to better communication and understanding.

We have now completed our outreach to all of our students who are studying abroad in Western Europe. Thankfully all are safe. We are assisting with any travel or other issues they might have as a result of the situation in France or elsewhere where disorder may be on the rise.

Closer to home, we have had thoughtful conversations with our students, and particularly the leadership of the Black Student Union, about the conditions and circumstances arising from the unrest and violence in Missouri and elsewhere in the U.S. and how we can be more responsive right here at FIU. It is clear to me that we must work harder to create safe spaces on campuses for our students, and be more diligent in defending the dignity and rights of all who deserve to be heard and respected in our diverse community.

I spoke publicly to these matters on Channel 10 this past Sunday along with several FIU campus leaders. I invite you to review the program at <http://www.local10.com/news/this-week-in-south-florida-nov-15/36464212>.

We know that many of you will have questions and concerns as we move forward. We encourage any member of the university who feels personally impacted to reach out. I may be contacted directly at mark.rosenberg@fiu.edu or at 305-348-2111. Students can also learn more about the various options for reporting concerns or seeking support services by visiting pantherscare.fiu.edu, or contacting the Counseling and Psychological Services at 305-348-2277. Faculty and staff can also reach out to our Employee Assistance Program at 305-348-2469.

Please join me in recommitting to a world where we can express our views freely, live and learn in safety and security, and enjoy the respect of and give respect to all who live in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mbr', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President