**Communication and Documents Regarding Recent Bias Incidents**

U-M STATEMENT ON SPOOFING ATTACK

February 8, 2017

The university was alerted about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday of several racist and anti-Semitic emails sent to email groups within the College of Engineering.

The University of Michigan Police Department and the FBI are conducting a joint criminal investigation into the incident. The university’s Information Assurance group also is involved in the investigation.

The U-M Division of Public Safety and Security has increased patrols in the North Campus area where the College of Engineering is located.

The content of the emails has been condemned by the university in general and by President Mark Schlissel specifically.

At this point, it has been determined that the emails were forged or “spoofed.”

Email “spoofing” is the forgery of an email header so that the message appears to have originated from someone or somewhere other than the actual source.

This is different from hacking, which involves a cyber attacker taking over an individual’s account by circumventing security systems.

In this case, no one has circumvented any IT security protocols at U-M.

**Statement from Engineering Professor J. Alex Halderman**

One of the emails was made to appear as if it were sent by Engineering Professor J. Alex Halderman, an election cyber security expert. Here is some of what he had to say:

“This evening many EECS undergrads received emails with racist and antisemitic content that appeared to be addressed from me or from my Ph.D. student Matt Bernhard.

“These messages were spoofed.  Matt and I did not send them, and we don’t know who did.  As I teach in my computer security classes, it takes very little technical sophistication to forge the sender’s address in an email.”

[2/8/17 – University Record – Forged emails spread hateful message to Engineering community](http://record.umich.edu/articles/forged-emails-spread-hateful-messages-engineering-community)

February 9, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I’m writing because we know that you have interactions with students and that you care about the university community. In light of the recent incidents of intolerance, bigotry and hate, I wanted to share with you activities that the administration is undertaking (see attached document).\* I hope that this information will help in your efforts to assure and comfort members of our community who may be affected and/or concerned by these issues.  Also, please do not hesitate to refer students who are having difficulty in the wake of these incidence to CAPS (<https://caps.umich.edu/>) or FASAP (<https://hr.umich.edu/benefits-wellness/health/mhealthy/mental-emotional-well-being/faculty-staff-assistance-program-fasap/fasap-our-counseling-team>).

I am looking for ideas on how to best support our community. Please share any ideas you may have and feel free to share this information.

Thanks.

-rob

Robert M. Sellers [Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer]

February 10, 2017

Dear Colleagues,  
  
Attached please find the documents\* referenced during our meeting. As also referenced, CRLT has resources that can help facilitate difficult discussions (<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/multicultural-teaching/difficult-moments>). Students who are feeling unsafe or stressed can contact the Dean of Students office for support (<https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/>).  
  
Regarding unit statements, please follow these guidelines:

* Statements must comply with the UM Guidelines for Political Campaigning and follow the attached Advice from the OGC on Political Action.
* Statements should not involve communication related to lobbying unless vetted by the OGC and/or Government Relations.
* For consistency in LSA website navigation, we suggest that statements be posted on the News section of your department website - this also helps reflect that statements are department news and not university news.
* Statements should be circujntfulated to the divisional Associate Dean prior to posting.
* The Dean's Office will not vet the content of the statements, beyond vetting for compliance with the published UM and College policies and offering assistance with review at the request of a department.

Best,  
ADM

<https://twitter.com/DrMarkSchlissel>

\*Related documents: **Attachments**