During the September 6th Faculty Senate meeting, a discussion arose regarding communication with faculty about crisis management in a post Virginia Tech environment. President Altman and I agree that we should continue to build awareness of protocols and processes that will help faculty and staff in moments of crisis.

Faculty observe student behavior on a daily basis and we are reliant upon you to consult with us should you observe any behavior of concern. Your outreach to us may be the best way to diffuse a potentially disruptive situation and provide assistance for a student or the campus community. The division of Student Affairs will be communicating separately about warning signs and available resources.

While prevention is critical, we also need to be thoughtful of what to do in the face of a campus crisis similar to those at Virginia Tech, Delaware State or St. John’s University. Upon witnessing, hearing or receiving notification of an active shooting incident in progress:

FROM A CAMPUS PHONE: Dial Public Safety at ext. 3333 from any classroom or campus phone and report the incident. Inform the Public Safety Office if you have also called 911. All classrooms are equipped with campus phones.

FROM A CELL OR PAY PHONE: Call 911 immediately and identify yourself, the situation, your immediate location and what you have heard or witnessed. (911 cannot be accessed through in-house campus phones.)

Public Safety is able to remotely lock all NVC classrooms equipped with swipe card access within minutes to isolate the incident (making it possible to leave classrooms, but not enter). Office and classroom doors in other buildings should be closed and secured where possible. All students and faculty should remain inside classrooms until instructed otherwise through the public address system.
Do not evacuate until instructed. Doing so may otherwise send students, faculty and staff into a potentially dangerous situation, and pedestrian traffic may inhibit officers’ access to the vicinity.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Ben Corpus, Dr. Corlisse Thomas, Dr. David Cheng, Dr. Caroline Kasnakian or Dr. Ron Aaron should you observe student behavior that seems questionable or seems unreasonable. Please contact Assistant Vice President Jim Lloyd with any questions, suggestions or feedback concerning our protocol and collective work to support and protect our students and campus community.

Thank you.