Actions taken regarding hateful “spoofed” emails & reflection room incident
Feb. 8, 2017

Actions taken regarding hateful “spoofed” emails

Late Tuesday night, U-M was made aware of a series of racist and anti-Semitic emails that were sent to email groups within the College of Engineering. DPSS opened a criminal investigation and is collaborating with the FBI. President Schlissel and other university leaders immediately condemned the message of the emails.

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. DPSS has increased patrols in the North Campus area where the College of Engineering is located.

Tuesday night-Wednesday morning

Email incident immediately reported to Office of Institution Equity, U-M Police, Information Assurance group, College of Engineering, Dean of Students, U-M Public Affairs.

Information Assurance team launches internal investigation into source of emails.

U-M Police launches criminal investigation into source of emails.

Dean of Students reaches out to Hillel regarding content of emails.

Dean of Students responds to individual student concerns regarding content of emails.

Public Affairs reaches out to Michigan Daily, MLive with preliminary information.

Professor J. Alex Halderman issues statement to Michigan Daily, MLive disavowing any association with the statement and calling this a case of forged or “spoofed” emails. Daily story: https://www.michigandaily.com/section/crime/racist-emails-sent-university-engineering-computer-science-students

President Schlissel meets with students outside his home at 1 a.m.; condemns messages.

DPSS sends Tweet at 2:09 a.m. indicating that police are investigating the threatening emails.

President Schlissel, Public Affairs, UMSocial reTweets DPSS message.

Schlissel condemns racist, anti-Semitic email messages in Tweet at 2:17 a.m.
**Wednesday**

DPSS increases security patrols in vicinity of engineering facilities on North Campus.

U-M Police and FBI officially team up for joint investigation of the incident.

Public Affairs creates Key Issues page for university statements.  
https://publicaffairs.vpcomm.umich.edu/u-m-statement-on-spoofing-attack/

Provost sends email to all deans making them aware of incident and Key Issues page.

Dean of Students meets one-on-one with students concerned about content of emails.

Engineering dean sends message to the Engineering community.

Engineering reaches out with offers of support to students who received emails.

Other deans send individual messages to their communities.

Key messages shared with university leadership, Admissions, others.

Link to the Key Issues page added to U-M Gateway website under “news.”

Public Affairs Tweets message with link to Key Issues page at 1:42 p.m.

Public Affairs conducts a dozen media interviews, including all Detroit TV stations,  

University Record story on the email incident posted on website:  
http://record.umich.edu/articles/forged-emails-spread-hateful-messages-engineering-community

**Next steps**

Update Key Issues page with new developments as needed.

Tweet out any new developments from DPSS and/or Public Affairs.

Push out University Record story Thursday morning in the Record email.

Respond to emails to the Office of the President and other leaders.

Return calls from parents, others to Office of the President.
Update media outlets with any additional information on an ongoing basis.

**Actions taken regarding report of urination in UGLI reflection room**

Over the weekend, DPSS reported that a man was seen/heard urinating in a reflection room at the Shapiro Undergraduate Library. These rooms are most often used for prayer by our Muslim students, although they are open to all students. A number of steps have now been taken.

**Sunday-Monday**

Incident reported to Bias Response Team; investigation launched.

Incident reported to U-M Police; investigation launched: [http://www.dpss.umich.edu/crime-log/](http://www.dpss.umich.edu/crime-log/)

U-M Police responds to media calls from Michigan Daily and MLive.

**Tuesday**

Library will replace carpeting in the reflection room.

Library will replace the throw rug in the reflection room.

Library will add key access to the reflection room, similar to how access is handled at some other reflection rooms.

Dean of Students staff outreach to Muslim chaplain and student community.

**Wednesday**

Statement from Robert Sellers, the University of Michigan’s chief diversity officer and vice provost for equity and inclusion