



**Division of Student Affairs**

**Joseph J. Cicala, Ph.D., Dean of Students**

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June 28, 2004

Dear Students,

As you already may have heard, there is a situation in our community involving criminal charges against La Salle University students in connection with alleged incidents of sexual assault. I am writing, first and foremost, to remind you of our University's standards and services regarding sexual assault and, in addition, to provide you with appropriate information about our responses to this situation, in particular.

All forms of assault violate University rules and regulations, which are outlined in the *Student Guide to Rights and Responsibilities*, and are subject to disciplinary action. Guidelines for students to follow in cases of sexual assault appear in the *La Salle University Student Handbook*. Further information may be found in our informational brochures regarding sexual misconduct. Copies are available for review on the Division of Student Affairs portion of the La Salle University web site ([www.lasalle.edu/studentaffairs](http://www.lasalle.edu/studentaffairs)) and copies are available, as well, in the Office of the Dean of Students.

I strongly encourage all of you to become familiar with these materials, with particular attention to the numerous sources of support available in our University community. I also strongly encourage you to discuss with your friends and/or with members of our staff ways in which you may minimize the exposure of yourself and your fellow students to risk. The staffs of our Community Development and Health Services units -- particularly our residential, Counseling Center, and Student Health Center staff members -- are available for consultation with individuals and groups. In addition, they, as well as our student organizations Sexual Assault and Violence Ends (SAVE) and Peer Educators, sponsor workshops and forums on this subject throughout the academic year and will continue to do so.

The details regarding the situation at hand are as follows. In the early morning hours of Friday, June 25, the Philadelphia Police Department notified the University's Security and Safety Department that they were investigating an allegation of a sexual assault in one of the University's townhouses. Since that time, the University has offered to assist the Police Department in any way possible. As a routine procedure, the University has launched its own internal investigation of the incident, as well as an incident alleged to have occurred in April, 2003, about which information has surfaced in the current investigation.

If and when the results of our investigation reveal reasonable cause to believe that one or more students have violated the University's rules and regulations, the student or students will face disciplinary action.

It is with great regret that I inform you of this situation. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have questions or information concerning the situation that we are investigating.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Cicala, Ph.D.  
Dean of Students