Office of the President

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Dear Members of the Campus Community:

Late last week, the higher education community was saddened by the shooting deaths at the University of Alabama at Hunstville. Even though such occurrences remain, thankfully, very rare, whenever one happens it is a tragedy for all of us who believe in higher education and its ability to unite people in the common pursuit of their dreams.

Despite the tragedy, it is important that we all remember that, in general, college and university campuses are safe places to work, study and live. The university has a strong commitment to the safety of all members of the campus community, a commitment shared by everyone on campus and spearheaded by our outstanding Department of Public Safety. By working together, our individual and collective efforts will help to ensure Ship is safe.

We also realize that any campus can be a place of challenge and stress. Sometimes those are evident, but sometimes they remain unknown until a tragedy occurs such as that at Huntsville. This is an opportunity for each of us to take a step back and look at ourselves, and, as importantly, to reach out to our friends and co-workers to ensure they are OK. This personal look may give you a fresh perspective on life, and reaching out to others may provide them with the compassion and support they need to help them through any current difficulties.

If you find you do need additional support, please contact one of the many support services we have on campus or services that are available throughout the region. They will be able to provide assistance or refer you to others who may be best suited to help.

As a campus community, we extend our deepest condolences to our counterparts at Hunstville, and I ask that you remember the victims and their families during these difficult days.

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