Good Morning,

Thank you for all the support you have provided to your students over the weekend. They have benefited enormously from your comforting words, and from your ability to reassure them during a challenging time. We would like to take this opportunity to keep you posted on St. John’s continued efforts as the weekend has progressed.

As you know, we strongly suggested that students stay on campus yesterday, and provided meals to help students follow this suggestion. Today, the SJU Paris team reports that the neighborhood surrounding campus is functioning in a relatively normal way. The desire to regain a sense of normalcy within the city of Paris is a testament to the will and strength of the French people, and also to the renewed security measures that the French government has put in place to protect the city.

We have continued to provide on-campus meals today, and our local team continues to be available to students to meet and discuss their concerns. Some are understandably anxious and prefer to remain inside, while others have begun to venture outside of campus for today’s SJU-sponsored mass (next door to campus) and for individual errands. These actions are consistent with current recommendations from the French authorities.

As you consider the situation in Paris, we want to reassure you of St. John’s protocols and response. Our team—former NYPD leaders, student affairs experts, and our experienced global staff—work closely with the U.S. Department of State, FBI, and local U.S. consular and other U.S. and French governmental sources. Paris is a very popular study abroad destination and we are benchmarking with our colleagues from other U.S. universities with programs in Paris to ensure that we are doing everything possible to support our students. At this time, all sources indicate that the city continues to be an appropriate location for U.S. study abroad programs. We will resume classes tomorrow and, in so doing, we hope to provide students with another outlet for conversations, support, and a sense of normalcy. We will evaluate all class-related activities that take place off-campus to make sure they are aligned with the guidance from the local authorities. We will also give students the option to opt out of any events that make them uncomfortable.

In addition, we have a team of trained mental health professionals in New York who are available for group and individual support as needed. We will also continue to support the larger group through conversations, activities, and meetings, and remain available to speak with students and families individually.

Our team has experience supporting and coaching students through the anxieties that accompany these types of tragedies. Though the first hours and days are among the most challenging, a sense of routine will return to the campus and the city, and answers, both local and global, will begin to emerge. Our strength will continue to come from our unity and our support of one another. No group plays a more vital, active role than each of you in providing a sense of context and comfort to your students.

We are exceedingly grateful to you, and continue to be available to speak with you 24/7, through our Office of Public Safety, at the following telephone number: (718) 990-5252.