

Message to the Community, May 2, 2019

Dear Faculty, Students, and Staff:

As many of you are aware, Johns Hopkins students and individuals unaffiliated with the university began a protest inside the lobby of Garland Hall, the university's main administration building, on April 3. The university has made every effort to support the protesters' ability to express their views, and has made clear that university leadership welcomes the opportunity to meet with students on issues about which they disagree, but no meeting can occur while students are in violation of the university code of conduct.

At the same time, Johns Hopkins staff and administrators also have an obligation to protect the health and safety of our community and ensure access to essential student support services. We have made clear verbally and [in writing](#) on numerous occasions that our continued accommodation of the protest required cooperation on these fronts.

Unfortunately, the protesters have consistently disregarded these requests. Yesterday afternoon, the protesters dramatically escalated this situation by blocking ingress to and egress from the building, harassing staff and security officers, chaining the doors of the building closed, and covering security cameras. This escalation interrupted exams for students with disabilities, prevented student workers from being paid, and significantly disrupted financial aid and other vital student services. Through their actions, the protesters have put themselves and others in danger. These actions mean that they are now in contravention not only of university policies, but of state and municipal laws and ordinances as well.

Garland Hall will be closed for the next several days. University officials are closely monitoring the situation and working in close consultation with fire, law enforcement, and university health and safety representatives. The administration is working to relocate key student services to alternate sites on a temporary basis, and will be posting regular updates and information at <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/garland/>. Employees should be in touch with their managers regarding interim work arrangements.

We are grateful to our entire community for their patience and resilience and we will provide further updates on the situation as it evolves.

Sincerely,

Heidi Conway
Vice President for Human Resources

Kevin Shollenberger
Vice Provost for Student Affairs