Public Comment, on behalf of Ben Hager:

On Thursday 8/31, I noticed a suspicious person on campus acting out of sorts.  The person did not appear to be a student and looked as though they may have been under the influence of something.  I kept an eye on this person as he left my building and watched him as we both made our way to Johnson Student Center.  The individual focused in on me, immediately becoming aggressive and verbally abusive.  He threatened me with physical violence throughout the ordeal.  I perceived his threats to be genuine, I was shaken by the experience.

The response from campus safety officers was not what I had expected.  I was disappointed in what I felt was a lack of urgency in their response and in how officers interacted with the individual.  Additionally, I am frustrated by the communication and reports on this issue.

At the time of the incident, at least 4 calls were placed to campus safety.  Timestamps from the incident report show that it was 5 minutes after the first call was made that responding officers met up with me and observed the individual.  It was even longer before an officer would make contact.

This individual was never stopped or identified; officers followed him as he left campus.  I was told an officer didn’t stop the individual because officers are trained to only detain for “serious crimes”.  However, I was later informed by campus safety that this did constitute a crime and was even offered support in filing a police report with SAPD.  Since this crime didn’t meet the criteria, I would like to know what does constitute a “serious crime”, one that would initiate immediate contact from an officer.

Officers on scene were aware of the threats of physical violence; it doesn’t sit right with me that this individual was allowed to walk past other students and Middle College unescorted.  Once in the parking lot, officers left JSC to make contact.

Additionally, I am disappointed at the way this was reported to SAC and district administrators, both in email and the official incident report.

Thank you for your time,

Ben