

Dear Campus Community,

I write today regarding recent news about the U.S. Department of Education issuing a substantial fine against the University of Montana for errors in reporting crime statistics in our Annual Security Reports from 2012 to 2015. These reports are a requirement of the Clery Act and are submitted each year by campuses across the United States.

During a review in early 2017, UM identified misclassifications and inconsistencies in the crime statistics previously submitted from 2012 to 2015. Our current team amended these older reports to ensure that our submissions of crime statistics were in line with current guidance. The fine issued is a result of the errors our team identified.

I want to assure you that our top priority remains creating a safe campus environment for our students, employees and campus visitors. I have clearly articulated my expectation to the leadership team that we will aim to establish UM as the safest campus in the country every year.

The DoE fines result from reporting errors and not a lack of response to these crimes. UM takes all reports of criminal activity seriously and conducts prompt and thorough investigation of every report we receive. This campus has been recognized for its efforts in addressing campus safety; that work will continue.

I'm proud that our team reviewed the crime statistics data and recognized the discrepancies. I'm proud that we worked hard to adjust previous years' reports to align with current guidance. Moving forward, we will look at our staffing, training and processes to ensure we have the support necessary to fully comply with all Clery Act requirements.

Seth