From: Ray Jackson

Subject: Policy on Graffiti Removal

Purpose: To establish a protocol on graffiti removal

Discussion: Massachusetts has enacted a Civil Rights law which states:

*Any person who willfully, intentionally and without right, or wantonly and without cause, destroys, defaces, mars, or injures a church, synagogue, or other buildings, structure, or place used for a school, educational facility or community center...shall be punished by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars or...by imprisonment in house of correction for not more than two and one-half years.*

Physical Plant has historically removed or covered any offensive graffiti as soon as possible. As a result of the Civil Rights law stated above, it is essential that graffiti of an offensive nature may constitute a violation of law and therefore **investigated by UMass Police before we remove it.** This policy is meant to clarify those incidents requiring reporting to the UMass Police.

Action: Upon notification of the existence of graffiti on the campus of the University or other University owned property, consideration shall be given to notifying the UMass Police. If the graffiti consists of anyone of the following categories, the UMass Police shall be notified and removal postponed until their investigation is complete.

- repetitive instances or persistent patterns
- a high degree of visibility
- victim is identified
- perpetrator is identified
- inciting to violence
- targeted to particular group(s) or includes threats or intimidation
Examples: swastikas, epithets in public places or on personal property, hate graffiti clearly aimed at individuals by naming them, being placed on their belongings, etc.

The only graffiti that can be immediately removed is that which does not suggest any of the above.
Examples: small graffiti in bathrooms and other public places which is general and vague.

It is imperative to report graffiti to the appropriate person(s). Graffiti that involves the UMass Police shall be removed immediately after their investigation is complete, maintaining records of all materials and time required to do so.

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Updated 2.19.2014 by the Communications Manager for Facilities & Campus Services.