STATEMENT BY AAU PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS
IN RESPONSE TO THE KILLINGS AT VIRGINIA TECH

The following statement was approved by the presidents and chancellors of the AAU universities at their meeting earlier this week in Washington, DC.

The presidents and chancellors of the Association of American Universities share in the nation’s deep sorrow over the tragic events at Virginia Tech. We express our heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims, the survivors, and the entire Virginia Tech community. We hope that this vibrant community of scholars will find healing and some consolation in the days to come.

After extensive discussion of the issues raised by the violence at Virginia Tech at our annual meeting in Washington this week, we wish to express our commitment to ensuring that our campuses continue to be safe as well as open places.

Toward that end, we are actively reviewing and, where necessary, will make or recommend adjustments to institutional and government policies and practices in several areas.

On our own campuses, we are reviewing campus security, crisis response, and emergency communications and will take steps as necessary to ensure the safety of our students, faculties, staffs, and campus communities.

We believe it is important to secure treatment for those on our campuses suffering from mental illness. We need to consider whether federal law should be adjusted to ensure a proper balance between individual privacy and the public interest.

Finally, it is essential that gun laws and regulations be enforced effectively as well as reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the need for a safe and open environment on our campuses.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.