

**From:** [Holden, Kurt Andrew](#)  
**To:** [Faculty Office](#); [Sample, Gregory P.](#); [Denniston, Jim](#)  
**Cc:** [Culley, Sean](#); [Deck, Lindsey Kae](#); [Wooley, Dawn P.](#); [Cipollini, Don](#); [Conley, Javan M.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Faculty Senate Resolution: Expanding WSU Alert for Power Outages  
**Date:** Monday, November 3, 2025 3:17:00 PM

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Dear Members of the Faculty Senate,

Thank you for sharing your resolution and for engaging in this important discussion about emergency communication and preparedness. I appreciate the opportunity to provide context on the decisions made during the May 24–26 power outage and to reaffirm our shared commitment to safety, research continuity, and continuous improvement as a university community.

This event presented real challenges to research operations, and the difficulties created by the loss of materials and disruption to ongoing work are acknowledged. While those challenges are recognized, the decisions made during the incident were consistent with current university practice and grounded in the conditions at the time.

Several key factors informed the decision not to activate the WSU Alert system:

1. No immediate threat to life or safety existed. Emergency power and backup systems activated as designed, maintaining lighting, essential infrastructure, and emergency response capabilities. At no point was the campus community in physical danger or required to take protective action.
2. Campus occupancy and operational activity were significantly reduced. The outage occurred during a holiday weekend when most facilities were closed, classes were not in session, and the majority of faculty, staff, and students were off campus. With limited personnel on site and no large populations at risk, the situation did not meet the criteria for a mass emergency notification.
3. The situation was actively managed and under control by Facilities personnel. Facilities Operations identified the source of the outage, initiated repairs, and coordinated communication efforts with Public Safety and relevant campus partners. Restoration efforts were underway, and emergency systems continued to support essential operations.

Additionally, as noted in the Faculty Senate’s resolution, monitoring systems, including freezer and equipment alarms performed as intended. These systems alerted personnel to changes in equipment status, which demonstrates that localized safeguards operated properly and as designed, complementing broader emergency protocols during the outage. If this is incorrect, this is how I understood it as written.

However, the WSU Alert system is intentionally reserved for incidents that present an immediate and credible threat to life and safety. Expanding its use beyond that scope could reduce its effectiveness and contribute to alert fatigue across the community. Based on the information available at the time, the situation did not meet that threshold.

Even so, the outage revealed opportunities to strengthen how we communicate during incidents that disrupt research or property. Public Safety, Environmental Health and Safety, and Facilities are already reviewing lessons learned and are actively examining opportunities to improve protocols and response.

We remain committed to continuously evaluating our procedures and identifying ways to strengthen our processes to ensure we are prepared to respond effectively as circumstances evolve. While I would have welcomed the opportunity for a collaborative discussion prior to the development of a formal resolution, Public Safety remains committed to partnership and open communication. Had this been communicated earlier as a top priority for faculty, those conversations could have taken place months ago. Looking ahead, I welcome the chance to meet with those whose work or materials were impacted to better understand the challenges they faced, the contributing factors involved, and how we might work together to mitigate similar outcomes in the future. These conversations are essential to aligning expectations and strengthening how we plan and respond moving forward.

Respectfully,

Kurt Holden  
Chief of Police &  
Director of Public Safety  
Department of Public Safety  
Wright State University  
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**From:** Faculty Office <facultyoffice@wright.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:09 AM

**To:** Sample, Gregory P. <gregory.sample@wright.edu>; Denniston, Jim <james.denniston@wright.edu>

**Cc:** Culley, Sean <sean.culley@wright.edu>; Deck, Lindsey Kae <lindsey.deck@wright.edu>; Wooley, Dawn P. <dawn.wooley@wright.edu>; Cipollini, Don <don.cipollini@wright.edu>; Holden, Kurt Andrew <kurt.holden@wright.edu>; Conley, Javan M. <javan.conley@wright.edu>

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Resolution: Expanding WSU Alert for Power Outages

Dear Provost Denniston and Chief Operating Officer Sample,

Citing concerns about the loss of research equipment and materials, as well as the safety of researchers, international students, and any other faculty, staff, or students who may be on campus outside of normal business hours (including holidays), the Faculty Senate has [approved a resolution](#) encouraging Wright State University to revise its WSU Alert policies and procedures. The revision would broaden the definition of an emergency to include loss of power in any campus building at any time.

The resolution specifically urges:

- Mandatory activation of alert notifications during any power outage affecting campus buildings
- University-wide communication explaining the new criteria and emphasizing the importance of registering for alerts
- A formal review of the May 24–26, 2025, power outage, including an after-action report assessing communication during the outage and recommending actions to prevent future issues

I've included Faculty President Dawn Wooley and Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair Don Cipollini on this message. Please let us know if you have any questions. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will ask the Buildings and Grounds Committee to follow up and report on the status of any actionable items stemming from the resolution.

Best regards,

Bryan

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Bryan Nethers

Office of the Faculty President and Faculty Senate

<https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate>