We are writing to make you aware of an electronic mail scam, that is being directed at university staff and faculty members. This scam is currently being investigated by the Baltimore Police Department and Campus Safety and Security.

Emails from an unknown source are claiming to be university department heads or deans. The individuals then claim that they are in an important meeting and request a cell phone number from the recipient. A text message is then sent to that cell phone number, instructing the recipient to purchase gift cards from a local store. After purchasing the gift cards, the recipient is asked to photograph the numeric code on the back of the card and send it back via text. The originating email address attempts to indicate that it is an official Johns Hopkins account and may include the name of a university faculty member. If you receive an such email, do not respond. Instead, contact Johns Hopkins University Campus Safety and Security Investigations at 410-516-4600. The university would never ask faculty and staff to conduct any of these actions. Never provide any identifying or personal information to an unconfirmed source.

If you find yourself a victim of any these or any other fraudulent activities please contact the Baltimore Police and/or Campus Safety and Security at 410-516-7777. For more information tips, please visit Campus Safety and Security website at http://security.jhu.edu/crime-prevention-tips/index.html.