University Senate
TRANSMITTAL FORM

Senate Document #:	14-15-34
Title:	Campus Safety Report 2015
Presenter:	Erin McClure, Chair, Campus Affairs Committee
Date of SEC Review:	April 9, 2015
Date of Senate Review:	April 23, 2015
Voting (highlight one):	1. On resolutions or recommendations one by one, or 2. In a single vote 3. To endorse entire report 4. For informational only
Statement of Issue:	In describing the standing committees of the University Senate, the Senate Bylaws designate the Campus Affairs Committee as a liaison between the campus community and the University Police on matters of safety and security. The committee is formally charged with gathering input from the community on safety and security issues on an annual basis. The 2014-2015 Campus Affairs Committee engaged in various efforts to gather information on safety concerns throughout the academic year.
Relevant Policy # & URL:	Not Applicable.
Recommendation:	The Campus Affairs Committee presents the 2015 Campus Safety Report to the Senate as an informational item.
Committee Work:	The Campus Affairs Committee addressed its charge by designing and disseminating a survey to identify the top safety and security concerns experienced by each constituency, and by meeting with Chief Mitchell and other representatives from University of Maryland Department of Public Safety. The committee reviewed all results and identified commonalities between faculty, staff, and students in concerns related to pedestrian and traffic safety, safety and security at night, theft and building security, cybersecurity, and safety in inclement weather.
Alternatives:	Not Applicable.
Risks:	Not Applicable.
Financial Implications:	Not Applicable.
Further Approvals Required:	Not Applicable.

Senate Campus Affairs Committee

Senate Document # 14-15-34

Campus Safety Report 2015

April 2015

BACKGROUND

In describing the standing committees of the University Senate, the Senate Bylaws (Article 6.2.e) designate the Campus Affairs Committee as a liaison between the campus community and the University Police on matters of safety and security. The committee is formally charged with gathering input from the community on safety and security issues on an annual basis. The 2014-2015 Campus Affairs Committee engaged in various efforts to gather information on safety concerns throughout the academic year.

COMMITTEE WORK

The Campus Affairs Committee began discussing how to address its annual charge in September of 2014, and worked on the charge throughout the academic year. The committee discussed previous efforts, in which the committee held annual campus safety forums and conducted a survey of Senators and committee members. After much discussion, the committee determined that it would fulfill its charge this year through meeting with Chief Mitchell and disseminating a survey to identify key safety concerns.

DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF MITCHELL

On October 15, 2014, the Campus Affairs Committee met with Chief David Mitchell, Sergeant Rosanne Hoaas, and Major Kenneth Calvert from the University of Maryland Department of Public Safety (UMDPS) to discuss various issues related to campus safety.

Chief Mitchell explained that UMDPS takes an all-hazards approach to campus safety, and any threat the safety of the community is in the interest of the department. The analytical unit at UMDPS is staffed by two full-time trained analysts, who constantly search open source information for information on potential threats. UMDPS also reviews scenarios outside of the University to consider how UMDPS would address similar scenarios if they were to happen at UMD.

The Campus Affairs Committee reviewed the Annual Safety and Security Report for 2013 produced by UMDPS, along with the Annual Fire Safety Report and the Department of Environmental Safety's Annual Report. Chief Mitchell discussed a few of the Annual Safety and Security Report's findings with the committee. At UMD, crime has been trending downwards for about 12 years, and there are seldom violent crimes against persons. Chief Mitchell explained that sex offenses have been historically underreported at UMD, and changes in policies and procedures to encourage reporting will cause those numbers to increase over the next few years. He explained that most instances of sexual misconduct at UMD involve acquaintances, rather than strangers. Robberies at UMD are rare, although there are occasional instances of break-ins in student housing and in campus buildings. Typically, the crime at UMD is in the form of muggings, theft, and destruction of property. Chief Mitchell explained that the theft of electronics is high, and shared that UMDPS uses bait programs to help catch perpetrators and deter theft.

Chief Mitchell noted that another issue faced at UMD relates to the perception of safety on campus. While the numbers show that UMD is very safe, the perception created by local news around Baltimore and DC causes community members to feel unsafe. In all, UMD is a very safe campus, and UMDPS will continue to work to reduce fears for community members. Chief Mitchell participates each year in the annual safety walk hosted by the SGA and GSG, which identifies locations on campus that are perceived to be unsafe while walking at night. The walks highlight those areas, and UMDPS and administration representatives on the walks consider ways to improve lighting or landscaping to make pathways safer at night. The Campus Affairs Committee notes that these safety walks have been very helpful at addressing concerns raised by students.

UMDPS uses various forms of technology in the course of its work. The University has automated license plate readers, which scan all cars on campus and connect to databases that show any warnings related to the plates. Depending on the information returned by the databases, UMDPS can act to arrest drivers in cases of suspected theft or if a warrant is out for the owner of the car, and in many cases turns information over to other police organizations or the Department of Homeland Security when needed. UMD also has over 400 cameras that are monitored in real time. The cameras are on campus, but are also along the corridor between the University and the Green Line in College Park.

UMDPS also has a robust emergency communications system. Alerts are delivered as emails or as text messages depending on user preference. Chief Mitchell noted that texts are the best way to receive information; the FCC has ruled that all carriers must give priority to texts from police departments, and must deliver the message immediately. Currently, UMDPS sends about 60,000 texts at a time in its alerts system. UMDPS has recently developed the UMD SOS app[1], which has a menu of various types of emergencies and related instructions on how to react.

Chief Mitchell also discussed the changes on Route 1 to improve pedestrian safety at night. During the summer of 2014, UMDPS and President Loh met with the State Highway Administration (SHA) and began working with them on multiple initiatives. UMDPS's new Walk Smart College Park campaign was funded by the SHA. President Loh advocated for a pedestrian barrier in the median to channel pedestrian traffic. Chief Mitchell also explained the impact on survivability between 25 miles per hour and 30 mph, and noted that this was a factor in the SHA's decision to reduce the speed limit on part of Route 1. In addition, the University worked with the City of College Park on the speed cameras on Route 1, which by law were only used during the day, and received an exception to be able to operate the cameras 24 hours a day. Crosswalks have been refreshed to be brighter, and UMDPS and PG County Police have additional foot patrols during critical times from Thursday through Saturday nights. UMDPS has also been working with bar owners to make it clear that they need to keep their patrons from jaywalking.

CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SAFETY SURVEY

Survey Design

The Campus Affairs Committee based its survey on the version created for the committee's 2013-2014 safety report. The simple survey (an example of which can be found in Appendix 1) was designed to be sent to all Senators and all Senate committee members. The committee agreed that soliciting information

---

[1] The UMD SOS app provides community members with on-the-go reference for various emergency situations. The UMD SOS app will also provide up-to-date information distributed by the campus alert.umd.edu system.
- Download the iOS version
- Download the Android version

from Senators and Senate committee members would effectively raise broad concerns, as these representatives are elected or appointed to represent a larger constituency within the University. The survey asked representatives to identify their constituency, and provide up to five safety and security concerns experienced by their constituency. The committee also added a new question to its survey this year to allow respondents to give suggestions on how campus safety in general or the specific issues they discussed could be improved. The committee felt that identifying the constituency of the respondents was critical to being able to compare responses from faculty, staff, and students.

The survey consisted of four questions, and was hosted on the Senate website for a two-week period in March 2015. The survey was emailed to all Senators and Senate committee members, and multiple reminder emails were sent during the survey period.

Survey Results

The committee's survey received 118 responses from faculty, exempt and non-exempt staff, undergraduates, and graduate students. The top concerns shared did not vary greatly by constituency, and in reviewing the results, the committee categorized the comments received into the following issues.

❖ Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

Safety issues related to commuting, walking, biking, driving, and parking on campus were noted throughout the survey responses. Faculty raised concerns for students walking around campus while distracted, pedestrian safety around Route 1, speeding in parking garages with low visibility around corners, and lack of crosswalks in large parking lots. Many faculty members mentioned related concerns on the safety of parking lots at night for those who teach late courses. Staff echoed the same concerns, but also raised the lack of adherence to traffic regulations, particularly around cross walks and stop signs on campus. Both graduate students and undergraduate students mentioned concerns related to the operating hours for shuttle buses, and suggested that more service is needed in late-night hours.

Suggestions for improvement for pedestrian and traffic safety included adding additional bicycle lanes or paths on campus, creating protected pedestrian walkways through large parking lots such as Lot 1, enhanced enforcement of traffic laws, elevated speed-hump crosswalks in areas with high pedestrian traffic, and creating pedestrian barriers on the sidewalks in downtown College Park. In its discussions, the Campus Affairs Committee considered ways to encourage situational awareness while walking on campus, and suggested that ongoing campaigns related to pedestrian safety, both on and off campus, may be necessary to encourage continual improvement in this area. Members noted that incorporating safety campaigns into advertising at athletics events or into free giveaway items at athletics events may be a great way to raise awareness with the student body.

❖ Safety and Security at Night

One of the most frequent concerns reported in the survey were issues related to safety at night. These concerns were expressed by faculty, staff, and students. Responses from faculty members noted concerns walking to parking lots after late classes, and noted that students should take advantage of police escort services after dark but often do not do so. Faculty often asked for more lighting on paths frequently traveled late at night, but concerns were also raised on light pollution and unsafe use of lighting as well. Faculty also suggested better communication of information on how to request a police escort and on situational awareness at night.

Staff responses cited similar concerns for staff who work late at night or early in the morning and often work and walk on campus in the dark. A few staff specifically mentioned concerns with parking far away

from their offices or work sites and walking across parking lots or across campus for late night or early morning shifts. Some staff also reported concerns for students being on campus at night as well. Student responses called out specific areas that need additional lighting at night, such as near the main entrance to campus at Route 1, and mentioned concerns related to parking lots at night as well. A few graduate students responded with comments about blue emergency phone boxes, and suggested that additional boxes across campus would be helpful and would enhance the perception of safety at night. Graduate students also suggested reexamining shuttle bus schedules to ensure no lack of service during late hours and providing additional lighting near construction areas in particular. Undergraduate students encouraged continued restriction of traffic flow on campus at night to only those with proper University identification.

The Campus Affairs Committee reviewed these concerns and noted that many comments were similar to those raised in past years. The committee discussed the suggestions related to blue emergency box phones, and a few members noted that additional phones may be helpful, since there are some areas on campus that do not have them. Members noted that the blue box phones are useful in emergencies, but also help with the perception of safety on campus. Members also suggested adding additional options to the blue box phones to allow students to use them to call Nite Ride or for a police escort at night if needed. The committee also discussed suggestions for additional lighting and cautioned that not all lighting is helpful, and additions should be considered strategically so as not to produce problems with shadows or glares.

❖ Theft and Building Security

Many of the comments in the survey raised concerns related to theft, safety of valuables, and the security in offices and buildings. These concerns were most prevalent among staff, but were also expressed by many student and faculty respondents as well. Staff raised concerns about being alone in offices and office procedures that do not allow for locking doors when staff are alone. Staff also discussed issues with building access and instances where swipe-card access was disabled, as well as concerns about theft from offices when individuals are not at their desks. Staff suggested encouraging offices to adopt practices to have at least two individuals present at all times, or to allow for office doors to be locked if only one staff member is present. In addition, non-exempt staff raised concerns that incidents and emergency situations that occur on campus are not always communicated to other faculty and staff who may need to be aware of the situations.

Faculty repeated staff concerns about theft of property from offices. A few comments were made regarding buildings being unlocked during public events that are not taking place in the building, such as sporting events and events on McKeldin Mall. A suggestion was made to conduct security sweeps of nearby buildings after public events to ensure that members of the public are not staying in buildings after the event has concluded. Some faculty respondents also suggested creating secure spaces in each building for personal and University property, and providing better locks on the doors to offices.

Graduate students raised concerns about building access and the lack of mechanisms to secure the building to only those working there late at night. For instance, in cases where lab work is conducted at night, the area should be restricted to only those working in the lab. Students suggested there should be more secure access to labs and to graduate student offices. Undergraduate student concerns focused on the potential for theft and muggings.

In discussing these concerns, members of the Campus Affairs Committee agreed that there can be problems with building access and card systems. Members suggested finding better ways to communicate how to address problems through a designated contact point for each building or area with a card swipe access system.

❖ Cybersecurity

Many comments were made by members of each constituency related to data and cybersecurity. Some respondents mentioned the data breach from spring 2014, though others simply listed broad concerns related to identity theft or security of personal data.

Suggestions on improvements related to cybersecurity included:
- Provide additional training and information on cybersecurity and what steps are being taken by the University to keep sensitive information more secure.
- Follow up on the data breaches from spring 2014 to determine how many people in the UMD community were impacted.
- In regards to online safety, the University could provide guidance to all campus constituents about how to use services without compromising informational safety, and any products or services that are useful for securing personal information.
- Increase VPN capabilities and other security measures that can be instituted by individuals or offices as needed.

❖ Safety in Inclement Weather

The Campus Affairs Committee was interested to find many comments related to safety in inclement weather. Comments came from each constituency, and noted concerns in travelling to and on campus when snow and ice could not be cleared away. Concerns were also raised related to many instances where snow and ice were taken care of, but melting during the day and refreezing around the end of the day caused concerns for the afternoon commute.

The Campus Affairs Committee discussed the concerns related to inclement weather and noted that these concerns were not raised in the previous survey conducted by the committee in November 2013, perhaps because no snow events had occurred before the survey was released in 2013. The committee noted that those responsible for clearing snow and ice typically do a great job of ensuring that the campus is safe when it opens. However, members did note that there could be issues with freezing late in the day, and the administration may want to consider strategies for addressing these situations.

❖ Additional Comments

In addition to raising the concerns mentioned above, respondents in each constituency brought attention to unique concerns as well. For instance, undergraduate students were the only individuals to raise concerns related safety in residence halls and threat of cars or other personal property being vandalized. Graduate students and non-exempt staff raised concerns related to lab safety and training for use of lab equipment. Faculty discussed concerns with accessibility issues and a lack of understanding of what to do in the case of a medical emergency during a class.

In particular, non-exempt staff raised many unique concerns. Many staff members noted that required safety trainings need to be completed prior to gaining access to certain labs or buildings. Staff suggested that these trainings need to be given higher priority on campus and understood as a critical part to maintaining a safe environment rather than an exercise that takes time away from work. Likewise, staff noted that for heavy equipment, appropriate training needs to be developed and given to each staff member who interacts with the equipment to prevent injury to employees. Staff also raised concerns related to access to equipment areas and maintenance areas, especially in new buildings and renovations. The comments noted that these areas are often repurposed as storage areas, but appropriate mechanical space needs to be reserved in each building to allow access to equipment.

Additionally, a few issues were raised in the survey that only had a few comments, but the committee felt they merited attention. First, a few respondents noted concerns with lack of cell phone reception in campus buildings. Respondents noted that it is not possible to make a call from LeFrak Hall, for instance, from a cell phone, and people within the building often do not know when emergency situations are happening outside of the building. Campus Affairs Committee members agreed this is a serious safety concern that should be addressed. Additionally, a few respondents noted the potential for violent activity or active shooter scenarios on campus, and noted that they felt unprepared for such a situation if one were to occur. Respondents suggested additional training and awareness of proper procedures to follow would be very helpful for the campus community.

FOLLOW-UP ON UMDPS CLASSROOM SAFETY INITIATIVE

In spring 2014, the Campus Affairs Committee met with representatives from the Department of Public Safety (UMDPS) to discuss its concerns related to classroom and building safety in the case of emergency situations. The committee reported in its Annual Safety Report for 2014 (Senate Document # 13-14-50) that UMDPS was working on solutions to ensure that classroom doors on campus are able to lock and allow students, faculty, and staff to effectively shelter in place during emergency situations. In April 2015, the committee received an update on UMDPS's progress. UMDPS has conducted multiple pilots of the manual locks it discussed with the committee, which have not resulted in any problems. UMDPS's Building Security Systems staff are working to replace old door handles in classrooms with locking door handles, and has completed work in four classroom buildings. In cases where electronic locking systems are used, additional work is needed to run conduits through buildings. Since work must be conducted when classes are not in session, UMDPS will continue its work on this project during the summer of 2015.

CONCLUSION

The Campus Affairs Committee met on March 27, 2015 to discuss its findings. The committee was pleased with the number of responses its survey received, and felt that it was able to hear important concerns from each constituency.

The Campus Affairs Committee noted that the concerns mentioned in the survey most often, related to pedestrian and traffic safety, safety at night, and theft, seemed to align with the issues mentioned by Chief Mitchell and UMDPS representatives as prevalent safety concerns on campus. Moving forward, the committee would suggest that the University should continue its efforts to educate the campus on safety issues and prepare for potential threats through training and safety campaigns.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Senate Campus Affairs Committee Survey on Safety and Security Concerns

APPENDIX 1 - SENATE CAMPUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SURVEY ON SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS

What constituency do you represent?

- ○ Faculty
- ○ Exempt Staff
- ○ Non-Exempt Staff
- ○ Graduate Student
- ○ Undergraduate Student
- ○ Other
  [_____]

Please identify the top safety and security concerns for your constituency.

1. [_____]
2. [_____]
3. [_____]
4. [_____]
5. [_____]

You may expand upon your responses in the text box below.

[_____]

Based on these concerns, do you have any suggestions for improving safety and security on campus?

[_____]

[>>]