

**SUNY Geneseo
Personal Safety Committee
2012-2013 Annual Report**



Committee Members: Alexis Annito, Matthew Austin, Tabitha Buggie-Hunt, Nicholas Damiani, Kevin Hahn, Aaron Heap, Tamara Kenney, David Norton, Sal Simonetti, Hannah Wang, Stacey Wiley and Sandra Yates.

The Committee was charged by President Dahl to:

1. conduct an audit of the location, use, and effectiveness of all surveillance cameras used for the recording and monitoring of public areas for non-instructional purposes and disseminate results of that audit to the College community;
2. coordinate the annual campus safety walk, and prepare a report on the walk;
3. monitor how construction conditions on campus are impacting campus safety, and communicate concerns to Facilities Services as warranted;
4. collaborate with other groups such as the College's Advisory Committee on Campus Security to gather and analyze data on the campus climate with regard to gender discrimination and sexual misconduct.

Charge #1: Conduct an audit of the location, use, and effectiveness of all surveillance cameras used for the recording and monitoring of public areas for non-instructional purposes and disseminate results of that audit to the College community.

This charge is an annual requirement of the SUNY Geneseo Security Camera Policy #1-010 and covers the 2012-2013 academic year. The Security Camera Policy may be accessed at:

<http://www.geneseo.edu/~policies/policies/Security%20Camera%20Policy%201-010.pdf>

A sub-committee was formed to carry out the mission of this charge. Sub-committee members included: Aaron Heap, Stacey Wiley and Sandra Yates.

AUDIT RESULTS for 2012–2013:

As a result of the audit, the following SUNY Geneseo buildings are known to have surveillance cameras used for non-instructional purposes:

- Erwin Hall
 - Webcam overlooking the Sturges Quad
- Lauderdale Health Center
 - One camera (not currently in use) located on the roof of the portico over the north entrance
- Integrated Science Center

- South side of building exterior – used as a webcam to monitor the Bailey Hall construction project
- MacVittie College Union
 - Room 111 – Federal Credit Union has 3 security cameras
 - Bank of Castile ATM, located at the northwest exterior doors has a security camera within
- South Hall
 - South side of building exterior - used as a webcam to monitor the Doty Hall construction project

**Note: As indicated in the College's Security Camera Policy, Automated Teller Machines (ATM) cameras are not part of the annual audit as these devices are owned by banking institutions. ATM's are noted in this report for informational purposes only.*

Charge #2: Coordinate the annual campus safety walk and prepare a report on the walk.

The annual President's Safety Walk was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Several members of the campus community including students, administrators and staff met in front of the Erwin Administration Building to begin the walk. Participants included:

Christopher Dahl, President
 Robert Bonfiglio, Vice President for Student & Campus Life
 James Milroy, Vice President for Administration and Finance
 Olivia Derella, SUNY Geneseo Student
 Danely Lopez, SUNY Geneseo Student
 George Stooks, Assistant Vice President for Facilities & Planning
 Leonard Sancilio, Dean of Students
 David Norton, Project Manager for Facilities Services & Planning
 Kevin Hahn, Assistant Director of College Housing for Residence Life
 Matthew Austin, Lieutenant for University Police
 Sal Simonetti, Chief of University Police

After each member of the assembled group introduced themselves, President Dahl provided an overview of the purpose of the walk and pointed out some of the important initiatives enacted as a result of previous annual safety walks. He also discussed accessibility issues and provided insight into the College Master Plan. The focus for the 2012 walk was the number of construction sites on North Campus.

Chief Simonetti guided participants towards North Campus, initially stopping to highlight accessibility improvements to the hardscape and west entrance of Steuben Hall. Chief Simonetti also mentioned an independent consultant's noted concern regarding the southeast corner entrance to Steuben Hall. Although well lit, this area is somewhat isolated by the presence of a tall, brick retaining wall. AVP Stooks noted that there are already plans to address this concern through an alternative landscape design. While in this area, it was also noted that wheelchair accessibility for Jones Hall was limited to the east side of the building.

Participants continued towards the Letchworth Dining Hall construction project. Considering the large area fenced off, a temporary walkway was added on the east side of the project to accommodate students traversing this area.

As the walk progressed to Letchworth Road and south towards Schrader Hall and MacVittie College Union, participants discussed the number of improvements made in the nearly completed complete renovation to Monroe Hall (scheduled to open January, 2013). Also, students Olivia Derella and Danely Lopez took this opportunity to highlight accessibility concerns to the Merritt Athletic Facility including the ice rink and swimming pool areas.

As a result of the annual campus safety walk, a number of building, sidewalk and street lights were observed as being out. Other safety conditions were also noted. This information was noted by VP Bonfiglio and AVP Stooks so that appropriate repair work orders could be initiated. These observations were as follows:

- Wall pack light out north side of Jones (opposite Steuben)
- Wall pack light out south side of Jones Hall (opposite College Union)
- Alcove light out south side end of Steuben
- Wall pack light out east side of Livingston
- Wall pack light out north side of Livingston
- Install safety/tempered glass for library windows at ground level
- Wall pack lights out on north, east and west sides of Allegheny
- Pole #25-12-47 light out
- Pole #25-08-52 light out
- Wall pack light out east side of Genesee
- Wall pack lights out inside the courtyard between Genesee/ Ontario and north side of Genesee
- Pole #25-6-37 light out
- Light out west side of Ontario
- Light blinking on pole #25-04-37
- Appears as though all wall pack lights on perimeter of Genesee are out: possible circuit off
- Pole light near the northeast corner of tennis courts out
- All wall pack lights out on west side of Wyoming and west side of Allegany (may have been on a timer as all came on and then went back out)
- Wall pack light out north end of Schrader
- Pole light out on MacVittie Union (next to the parking on the circle)
- Pole #15-02-29E light out
- Wall pack light out west side of the Sturges stairs
- Wall pack light out southeast corner of Jones
- Canopy light out at the east/southeast corner entrance to Jones
- Entrance light out over door on north end of Sturges
- Canopy light out on north side of Erwin (second light in from the west)
- All lights on the Focal Point within the steel work are out
- Poll light (no #) out on north side of Erwin across sidewalk

Charge #3: Monitor how construction conditions on campus are impacting campus safety, and communicate concerns to Facilities Services as warranted.

A sub-committee was formed to carry out the mission of this charge. Sub-committee members included: Alexis Annito, Nicholas Damiani, Kevin Hahn and David Norton.

Summary provided by David Norton – Department of Facilities, Planning & Construction

The Department of Facilities Planning & Construction (FP&C) oversees all capital construction projects on the campus. The Department not only oversees construction that happens within the construction fence line, but also outside and adjacent to the fence line as well. The majority of construction activities occur within construction fencing areas which helps to keep any construction hazards separated from both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. However, there are times where construction activities take place outside the fenced areas. Under these circumstances, FP&C works closely with the construction contractor and design consultant in planning those activities to ensure safety is maintained. FP&C also communicates with the campus when such activities occur and will report road and sidewalk closures and detours.

FP&C staff and the individual project superintendent check the conditions of the construction fencing around each project on a regular basis to ensure conditions are safe. If it is discovered that a certain condition needs attention, the contractor is instructed to make immediate corrections.

In late fall 2012, a condition was brought to the attention of FP&C regarding pedestrians traversing the lawn and landscape areas at the Letchworth Dining Hall Renovation project after the installation of construction fencing. FP&C reviewed the condition and corrected the situation with the placement of a temporary sidewalk and lighting in the area to enhance pedestrian safety.

The sub-committee for this charge was asked to bring forward safety concerns surrounding the active construction projects across campus. No concerns were brought forward. FP&C will continue to immediately review and evaluate any concerns that are presented to his office and ensure corrective action is taken when necessary.

Charge #4: Collaborate with other groups such as the College's Advisory Committee on Campus Security to gather and analyze data on the campus climate with regard to gender discrimination and sexual misconduct.

A sub-committee was formed to carry out the mission of this charge. Sub-committee members included: Tabitha Buggie-Hunt and Matthew Austin.

Summary provided by Lt. Matthew Austin – University Police Department

Lt. Austin met with Jillian McPherson, president of PRIDE, to discuss these issues. Jillian indicated that most faculty members do not demonstrate signs of gender discrimination, however, she has heard of a couple instances. Overall, Jillian believes that faculty members are mutually appreciative of each other regardless of gender.

With regard to sexual misconduct, Jillian believes that these situations occur mostly off-campus as a number of safety layers exist (RA, neighbor, roommate, police, etc.) on-campus to alleviate this. However, a number of demeaning and overt gestures, speech and actions do occur in the Main Street area during night life hours.

Jillian believes that the college community does a good job of notifying students on how to report discrimination and sexual misconduct. However, she feels that people do not report such occurrences mainly due to a perception that “it won’t matter” or because of fear and/or pressure from the perpetrator. Lastly, Jillian believes victims of such occurrences fear that the situation would become a large scale event if reported.

Lt. Austin also met with Emily Vanocher, president of the Womyn’s Action Coalition (WAC) to discuss these same issues. Emily believes that Geneseo does a good job of handling gender issues and points to the example of having “guest” bathrooms rather than male/female in Genesee Hall. This condition helps to alleviate pressure placed on the transsexual community. Emily does believe that improvements could be made to the “A Kiss is Still a Kiss” program to better recognize concerns of the LGBTQ community.

Emily discussed her belief that more males are tenured professors, women are adjuncts professor and a glass ceiling exists. Emily acknowledges that she does not know if this is simply a cultural issue or specifically a problem at SUNY Geneseo.

With regard to sexual misconduct, Emily feels that such occurrences are under reported and take place mostly off-campus. Like Jillian, Emily believes instances of sexual misconduct occur on a nightly basis within the Main Street bar scene. It is Emily’s belief that alcoholic beverages are involved with this behavior most of the time and that men think that it is all right to sexually harass women based upon a number of conditions such as a woman’s manner of dress, consumption of alcohol, dancing etc.

Lt. Austin also met with Melinda Dubois, Director of Lauderdale Health and Counseling, to discuss sexual misconduct on campus. Melinda indicated that students seem to regard sexual misconduct as the status quo of college life. During the 2011-2012 academic year, there were eight (8) incidents of sexual assault reported to her. The majority of these incidents occurred off-campus and thus were not reportable on the College’s Annual Security & Fire Safety Report (Clery Report). Melinda also has strong reasons to believe that there were at least ten (10) additional sexual assault incidents in which the victims chose not to report.

In summation, it appears that the College is handling gender discrimination concerns in an appropriate manner. However, members of the LGBTQ and WAC communities are looking for more. Overall, it is apparent that faculty members do not allow gender to influence their treatment of students.

Based on the conversations noted above, it appears that the College does a very good job in providing information which helps to prevent and report occurrences of sexual harassment and sexual assault. However, there seems to be a disparity from what takes place on campus and what transpires off-campus.

Additional Efforts

Based upon work initiated by the 2011-2012 Personal Safety Committee, a safety survey was presented to the campus community during the month of November, 2012. The goal of this survey was to learn about any safety concerns community members may have regarding the campus. Based on the results, the Personal Safety Committee could then be in a better position to make recommendations towards the enhancement of overall safety on campus.

Committee members Hannah Wang and Kevin Hahn reviewed the 152 responses received and provided a summary report which can be found on the Appendix attached to this report.

End of Report

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Appendix
Personal Safety Survey Summary

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Personal Safety Survey Summary:
2012 - 2013

I. Demographic Information:

total number of survey participants:

n = 170

survey participant demographics – place of residence:

number of campus residents: 42

number of off-campus residents – driving distance: 97

number of off-campus residents – walking distance: 31

survey participant demographics – affiliation with SUNY Geneseo:

number of students: 61

number of staff members: 74

number of faculty members: 35

survey participant demographics – gender:

male: 47

female: 94

female sex, but gender identity is mix of male and female: 1

decline to answer: 28

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II. Summary and Analysis – Campus Residents:

number of survey respondents in this category: 42 (28 in North/Central Village; 14 in South Village)

number of student respondents: 40 of 42

number of staff member respondents: 2 of 42

number of faculty member respondents: 0 of 42

campus safety concerns:

(note: Actual survey item was phrased as “Please describe any safety concerns you may have about the SUNY Geneseo campus.”)

North and Central Village residents:

Many North Village residents expressed the concern that North Campus is not lit brightly enough and lights go out frequently, as evidenced by the statement, “Many of the lights which illuminate pedestrian walkways and staircases go out frequently.” Some cases include Erie Hall because, according to one survey participant, it has neither footpath nor lighting. They would also like to see more of a University Police presence around campus.

South Village residents:

Many who live in the South Village agreed with North Village residents about some concerns -- and about the lack of outdoor lighting, in particular. Students in the South Village would like to see more lights and emergency call buttons.

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III. Summary and Analysis – Off-Campus Residents (Driving Distance):

number of survey respondents in this category: 97

number of student respondents: 2 of 97

number of staff member respondents: 69 of 97

number of faculty member respondents: 26 of 97

campus safety concerns:

(note: Actual survey item was phrased as “Please describe any safety concerns you may have about the SUNY Geneseo campus.”)

- remote parking – and fall prevention, as a result
- too many connected buildings – electronic locks might not deter students from hiding in buildings, if they wished
- insufficient outdoor lighting
- uneven/bumpy sidewalks
- lighting reduced during vacation periods
- no escorts available during the evenings – through University Police or other means
- fallen leaves covering posts supporting fence near construction suite, which is a trip hazard
- icy walkways
- vehicles traveling too fast through campus and parking lots
- theft
- dangerous former employees and lack of notification
- lack of multiple exits in all classrooms (e.g., smaller Newton Hall classrooms)
- University Police emergency telephone number difficult to remember
- service personnel and faculty members not wearing visible identification
- vehicle vandalism
- in new offices, furniture always seems to be configured so that staff and faculty members are facing away from doors
- poor vision when merging onto Main St. from Park St. or University Dr.

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- poor condition of stairs and railings
- University Police officers unapproachable
- dark inside buildings due to motion sensor lighting
- too easy for non-students to access residence halls
- lack of security cameras in parking lots
- blue light telephones no longer effective – not direct connection to 911
- lack of accountability for harassment and threatening gestures/actions
- students walking in streets too often
- secondhand smoke

In reviewing the responses from participants who commute to campus from a driving distance, insufficient outdoor lighting – especially along sidewalks and in parking lots – was mentioned frequently as a safety concern. Uneven or poorly repaired sidewalks seem to exacerbate this concern, as campus community members are far likelier to trip or fall in an area with both insufficient lighting and uneven walkways.

It is evident that University Police officers are perceived as non-responsive, unapproachable, or unhelpful by a small number of survey respondents. This perception appears to be perpetuated when University Police vehicles are witnessed driving through crosswalks without stopping or driving through campus at too fast of a speed. While secondhand smoke is not an imminent safety threat, the passion, determination, and detail with which the respondents articulated their concerns about smoking and its negative impact for others should not be ignored.

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IV. Summary and Analysis – Off-Campus Residents (Walking Distance):

number of survey respondents in this category: 31

number of student respondents: 19 of 31

number of staff member respondents: 3 of 31

number of faculty member respondents: 9 of 31

campus safety concerns:

(note: Actual survey item was phrased as “Please describe any safety concerns you may have about the SUNY Geneseo campus.”)

- deranged students (like Va. Tech. incident) and how we would respond
- careless bicycle riders endangering pedestrians
- workplace violence – worry about how some students might react to failing grades; increase of students with mental health issues heightens this concern
- too many unauthorized people in buildings during weekends and holidays
- vehicles susceptible to vandalism
- ability for students to access Welles Hall 24 hours/day due to connectedness of academic buildings
- non-responsiveness of University Police officers
- lack of University Police presence
- lack of serious reporting system for harassment incidents
- lack of blue light telephones
- lack of multiple egress routes in some academic buildings (e.g., Sturges Hall)
- lack of outdoor lighting; lights which dim or flicker as people approach
- safety of women, in general; safety of women as it pertains to sexual assault; underreporting of incidents of sexual assault

Again, numerous respondents indicated that outdoor lighting should be improved. A survey participant was genuinely confused as to why any light would dim when they walked underneath it. Others identified these lights as motion-sensing, but still wondered why the lights would operate in this way. Several respondents emphasized the importance of emergency preparedness, as well; these

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respondents wondered how the campus would react in the event of an active shooter and expressed that multiple egress routes are needed in all academic buildings.

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V. Table A – Multiple Choice Question Responses:

(note: This table displays responses to the questions “Overall, how safe do you feel on campus at SUNY Geneseo?” and “How informed are you as to where to find safety information on campus?”)

	Number of survey participants	Overall, how safe do you feel on campus at SUNY Geneseo? (%)				How informed are you as to where to find safety information on campus? (%)			
		Very Safe	Safe	Unsafe	Very Unsafe	Very Informed	Informed	Uninformed	Very Uninformed
North Village and Central Village residential students (Allegany, Wyoming, Livingston, Jones, Putnam, Ontario, Genesee, Steuben, Erie, and Seneca)	28	12 (42.9%)	14 (50%)	1 (3.6%)	1 (3.6%)	5 (17.9%)	13 (46.4%)	7 (25%)	3 (10.7%)
South Village residential students (Onondaga, Saratoga Townhouses, Niagara, Suffolk, Wayne, and Nassau)	14	7 (50%)	6 (42.9%)	1 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	1 (7.1%)	9 (64.3%)	1 (7.1%)	3 (21.4%)
Off-Campus residents (driving distance)	97	34 (35.1%)	58 (59.8%)	3 (3.1%)	2 (2.1%)	17 (17.5%)	50 (51.5%)	24 (24.7%)	6 (6.2%)
Off-Campus residents (walking distance)	31	15 (48.4%)	15 (48.4%)	1 (3.2%)	0 (0%)	3 (9.7%)	22 (71.0%)	5 (16.1%)	1 (3.2%)
Totals	170	68 (40.0%)	93 (54.7%)	6 (3.5%)	3 (1.8%)	26 (15.3%)	94 (55.3%)	37 (21.8%)	13 (7.6%)

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VI. Table B – Blue Light Telephones:

(note: This table displays responses to the question “Considering the widespread use of cellular phones, do Blue Light Emergency Phones still serve as a useful tool to report an emergency?”)

		Considering the widespread use of cellular phones, do Blue Light Emergency Phones still serve as a useful tool to report an emergency?		
	Number of survey participants	Yes	No	I don't know
North Village and Central Village residential students (Allegany, Wyoming, Livingston, Jones, Putnam, Ontario, Genesee, Steuben, Erie and Seneca)	28	17 (60.7%)	2 (7.1%)	9 (32.1%)
South Village (Onondaga, Saratoga Townhouses, Niagara, Suffolk, Wayne, and Nassau)	14	9 (64.3%)	2 (14.3%)	3 (21.4%)
Off-Campus residents (driving distance)	97	58 (59.8%)	17 (17.5%)	22 (22.7%)
Off-Campus residents (walking distance)	31	18 (58.1%)	4 (12.9%)	9 (29.0%)
Totals	170	102 (60.0%)	25 (14.7%)	43 (25.3%)

Most survey participants (60%) feel that blue light telephones are still useful in emergency situations, but for various reasons. Some believe that the devices would be helpful in a literal sense -- these respondents could envision a troubled student or staff member using the blue light telephone to dispatch University Police for emergency assistance. Others feel that the blue light telephones are less practical and useful in a literal way, but demonstrate a spirit of safety -- and offer a symbol of how much we value safety at Geneseo.

A significant percentage (25.3%) of our survey respondents indicated that they were either unaware of blue light telephones, in general, or that they were unsure as to how to answer the question about blue light telephones. This statistic could be concerning, and might prompt us to consider how we can educate members of the campus community about the purpose of blue light telephones, along with how and when they can be used. Additionally, some of those who reported using blue light telephones in the past shared that the sound quality of the connection is poor, and that they might not always be working properly.

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VII. Table C – Format of Safety Information:

(note: This table displays responses to the question “What would be the most helpful format to find personal safety information on campus?”)

Desired Information Format	Number of survey participants (%)
Brochures	4 (2.4%)
E-Mail	6 (3.5%)
Posters	82 (48.2%)
Word of Mouth	33 (19.4%)
Student Code of Conduct	16 (9.4%)
Human Resources welcome packets for new hires	1 (0.6%)
Geneseo Late Knight programming	1 (0.6%)
Emergency Reference Guide wall hangers (more of them)	1 (0.6%)
Workshops/Department Presentations	2 (1.2%)
Web Sites	150 (88.2%)
Stickers (for doors, phones, etc.)	1 (0.6%)
Social Media	2 (1.2%)

VIII. Table D – Logical Locations or Sources of Safety Information:

(note: This table displays responses to the question “Which SUNY Geneseo departments would be the most logical places to find safety information?”)

SUNY Geneseo Department	Number of survey participants (%)
Academic Affairs/Provost	24 (14.1%)
Admissions	30 (17.6%)
Dean of Students	34 (20.0%)
Health and Counseling	73 (42.9%)
Human Resources	54 (31.8%)
Residence Life	95 (55.9%)
University Police	157 (92.4%)
Dining Locations	1 (0.6%)
Environmental Health and Safety	2 (1.2%)
College Union & Activities	1 (0.6%)

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IX. Suggested Safety Changes:

(note: Actual survey item was phrased as "What would you like to see changed on campus in terms of safety?")

- additional/better outdoor lighting
- University Police officer presence in buildings during business hours; increase in University Police "community" presence by walking and bicycle patrols
- education about mission of University Police Department
- ability to dial 911 instead of University Police emergency telephone number
- better sidewalk/walkway maintenance and repairs
- card access for all buildings
- eliminate access to Welles Hall from South Hall and Wadsworth Auditorium during evenings
- better snow removal in walkways
- more communication
- better attention to pedestrian safety
- increased use of security cameras, particularly in parking lots and residence hall entrances
- investigations of dangerous students and staff members
- establish volunteer service for campus community members to be escorted to their vehicles during evenings
- consider keeping Milne Library available to students for 24 hours/day instead of South Hall
- education about secondhand smoke – including signage, Orientation session, and increased enforcement of smoking policy

Respectfully submitted by
Hannah Wang and Kevin Hahn,
Personal Safety Committee