

TO: Dr. Zvi Szafran  
President

FROM: Derek Converse  
Campus Safety Committee Chair

DATE: October 25, 2022

SUBJECT: 2021 – 2022 Annual Campus Safety Committee Report

Attached is the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Campus Safety Committee. This report enumerates the activities of the SUNY Canton Campus Safety Committee and cumulative, campus-wide efforts, effectively addressing a broad range of campus safety issues. If you have any questions, please feel to contact me.

cc: Committee Members  
S. Miller  
P. De Cooke  
C. Bish  
T. Thompson  
File

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE CHARGE**

The SUNY Canton Campus Safety Committee was established to address chemical hygiene issues. When Article 129-A of the NYS Education Law § 6431 was enacted, the Campus Safety Committee incorporated personal safety as well. The Committee is a presidential committee that functions outside faculty governance.

The charge of the Campus Safety Committee is to address a wide range of campus safety concerns. The Committee's first two charges are:

1. Responding to inquiries from concerned persons and referring complaints to the appropriate authorities, and
2. Recognizing, evaluating, and recommending a course of action to solve or control safety/health problems.

These two charges are met utilizing several different means. The annual Campus Safety Walk Around includes faculty, staff, and students who do a physical inspection of the campus during daylight and after dark. The Safety and Health Reporting Form is available to submit electronic safety/health issues. Finally, Safety Committee members are very active in soliciting and bringing safety issues to the Committee for discussion and resolution. Since a majority of the committee members are directly involved in the departments that play major roles in campus safety, most issues can be resolved at the committee level.

The Committee's last three charges are:

1. Ensuring that education is provided to the campus community about personal safety and crime prevention,
2. Identify and recommend strategies to the campus for the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault, and
3. Make recommendations for campus implementation by sharing them with the Title IX coordinator or designee.

These three charges are addressed through monitoring, reviewing, and participating in areas that provide safety information and education, including Title IX. Additional information has been included concerning Title IX and educational programming. As a part of its standing work, the Committee reviews various annual reports to assure compliance with the regulatory requirements, such as Campus Security Act, Fire Safety Report, Annual Campus Safety Report, and other requirements of the Education Law, Article 129-A

## **2020-2021 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Safety Committee's composition meets the requirements as defined by Article 129-A of the NYS Education Law § 6431. The committee membership is reviewed on an annual basis and appointments are made accordingly. Safety Committee membership for 2021-2022 was the following:

1. Derek Converse –Chair, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator
2. Riley Gadway – Student Representative
3. Malyssa Shenko – Student Representative
4. Katlyn Atkinson- Student Representative
5. Kody Burwell – Student Representative
6. Jacenia Manning – Student Representative

7. Ran Li – Assistant Professor
8. John Kennedy – Director of Residence Life
9. Brian Kurish – Lieutenant, University Police
10. William Myers – Associate Professor & Business Dept. Chair, Business & Liberal Arts
11. Jamie Sovie – Instructional Support Technician, Science, Health & Criminal Justice

**Ex Officio Members**

1. Martin Avery – Physical Plant Superintendent
2. Brad Winters – Inventory and Maintenance Manager, College Association
3. Michael McCormick – Executive Director of Facilities
4. James Sheppard – Counselor
5. Alan Mulkin – Chief of University Police
6. Tina Flanagan – Benefits Coordinator
7. Julie Cruickshank – Associate Director of Health Services
8. Brett Furnia – Plant Utilities Engineer I, CSEA Representative

**SUNY CANTON SAFETY COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

- Three Committee meetings were conducted during the 2021-2022 academic year and the Campus Safety Committee web page was updated regularly as needed.
- Reviewed mandatory compliance reporting for the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Statistics Act and Title IX policies and reporting procedures.
- Received and responded to two submissions to Report a Health and Safety Hazard on Campus (3/4/22, 4/13/22)
- More than 21 campus-wide email and text message notices were sent out on health and safety issues, including: Mental Wellness (10/20/21, 10/29/21, 12/2/21), Physical Wellness (10/1/21, 1/24/22, 2/10/22, 4/11/22, 4/29/22), Blood Drives (1/31/22, 4/6/22), Vaccination Clinics (10/1/21, 1/24/22), Title IX (9/24/21, 10/1/21, 8/23/22, 8/31/22), Rave Alert (12/9/21, 2/17/22), and Winter Storm Warnings (2/17/22, 2/24/22) and Holiday Safety Tips (11/30/21).
- Members of the Safety Committee conducted RA/RD Fire Safety Training for 27 RA/RDs to include hands-on fire extinguisher training at the beginning of the fall semester on 8/17/21.
- Members of the Safety Committee with help from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) facilitated Fire Safety Days consisting of conducting fire safety training for 251 residents of the Kennedy Hall suites on 9/23/21 and 9/24/21 culminating with a mock dorm room burn demonstration on 9/24/21.
- A Fall Annual Campus Safety Walk-Arounds was conducted on 11/18/21 at 4:15 am attended by 6 faculty, staff and students. Six new issues/areas of concern were identified, addressed, and followed up on. A Spring Annual Campus Safety Walk-Around was

conducted on 5/2/22 at 11:00 am and attended by 8 faculty, staff and students. Seven new issues/areas of concern were identified, addressed, and followed up on.

- Review and revised sections in the College’s Policies and Procedures Manual and the Student Handbook.

## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

For the 2021-2022 academic year, the campus community worked very hard to prepare for students to return to an in-class experience where feasible in a safe and responsible manner. The campus provided bi-weekly COVID-19 testing for the vaccinated members of the campus and weekly testing was provided for those unvaccinated or undeclared for most of the academic year. Throughout the semester, as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, more in-person trainings and meetings were once again able to resume. After May of 2022, once infection rates had subsided and in consultation with the local health department, bi-weekly testing for the vaccinated was eliminated. More of an emphasis was placed on personal responsibility when dealing with COVID-19.

## **TITLE IX**

At the start of the Fall 2022 semester, Nicodeme Auguste was appointed as the new Title IX coordinator, and Amanda L. Deckert now serves as the deputy Title IX coordinator. Employee compliance training was completed utilizing Blackboard and sent out to the campus to complete online. Training for student groups (Athletic, EOP, Resident Assistant, Greek, etc.) is done in person.

## **EDUCATION**

There was a concerted effort to provide health and safety related programs to a wide audience in a variety of venues. Many of the Safety Committee members’ departments are major providers of campus health and safety programs. Programs frequently addressed the intersection between domestic/sexual violence and alcohol/drug use. The following list highlights programs offered during the 2020-2021 academic year that addressed safety and health issues.

### **Counseling:**

- Personal Counseling logged 1772 sessions
- Responded to 28 crisis interventions
- 190 sessions through tele counseling
- Presented or co-sponsored 125 educational and stress reducing programs this year reaching 7,555 contacts. The programs included:
  - Fresh Check Day
  - Alcohol Awareness Evening
  - Wellness Guides Give Away
  - Stress reduction projects
  - Stress and Relaxation Before Finals Day
- Additional Resources Provided By SUNY
  - SUNY Crisis Text Line

- Middle Earth Peer to Peer Assistance Hotline
- QPR training
- Tele health psychiatric services
- Resources on services for LGBTQIA
- Food Pantry
  - 150 bags of food supplies given out to students in need

### **Diversity and New Student Orientation**

- Paperclip Webinar
- Economic Outlook Webinar and Q&A with New York Fed President
- SUNY SAIL leadership seminars
- SUNY Cortland TransAction conference
- North Country Sustainability Day & Green Living Fair
- Restorative Justice & Practices Conference
- Anti-Racism Group
- Executive Diversity Council
- Non-Academic Assessment Committee
- Affirmative Action Committee
- Preferred Name Policy Committee
- Cultural Competency Badge Committee
- Associated Colleges DEI Conference planning committees
- Bias Intervention Team Committee
- St. Lawrence County Fall Meeting/Food Pantry
- St. Lawrence Fair Housing Task Force
- SUNY ODEI meetings, with Valerie Dent and SUNY CDOs. These included updates on PRODiG, CARES Act funding, Title IX, Sexual Assault Prevention Training, hiring practices, and other campus initiatives.
- Frequent use and reservations of Center for Diversities & Inclusion

### **Facilities Management:**

- Capital Improvement Construction Projects
  - Reconstruction of Miller Drive to include improvements to lighting, pavement, and sidewalks
  - Reconstruction of Parking Lot No. 1 to include improvements to lighting and pavement
  - Site improvements to French Hall and Roselle Plaza to include improvements in walkways, granite retaining walls and lighting
  - Site improvements to Dana Hall to include walkways
- Minor Critical Maintenance Projects
  - Replace Lighting of the Convocation Athletic Recreation Center (CARC)
  - Replace VESDA Fire Alarm System of the CARC
- Completed 9 work orders addressing concerns from the bi-annual campus safety walkarounds
- Jobsite Ergonomics Program received \$35,000 worth of equipment to assist employees in accomplishing their job-related tasks in a more ergonomically safe manner
- Assisted with setting up COVID-19 testing centers and vaccination clinics and disseminating PPE, hand sanitizer and disinfecting supplies throughout the campus
- Aerial Lift Training for Physical Plant Staff

- Respirator & Fit Testing for University Police, Physical Plant, Health Services, Facilities, and Environmental Health & Safety Staff

#### **Health Services:**

- Provided care during over 2,200 students visits to the Health Center

#### **Student Activities:**

- Opening Weekend
- Held events tailored towards social interaction
- Revitalization of clubs

#### **University Police:**

- University Police presented the following educational programs with the goal of increasing safety awareness and a positive learning environment:
  - Operation ID
  - Personal Safety/Basic Crime Prevention and Tips
  - Domestic Violence/Dating Violence
  - ABC's of the ABC Law
  - Alcohol/Drug Abuse Awareness
  - Orientation – overview of the University Police function and general campus regulations
  - Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
  - Campus Security Authority Training
  - Drug Identification and Awareness
  - Quality of Life Issues on Campus
  - Drinking and Driving – Beer Goggles
  - Ride-Along Program
- University Police and SUNY Canton distribute numerous pamphlets to faculty, staff and students to assist them in preventing victimization for specific types of crimes
- Students found in violation of the zero-tolerance policy are required to take an Eight-hour Alcohol/Drug Education Class.

#### **Wellness Promotions:**

- Programs
  - 90 health education programs offered
  - 2574 direct health education contacts
  - 1778 indirect virtual health education contacts
  - Additional virtual programs offered alongside on-campus opportunities
  - Fresh Check Day (Uplifting mental health and suicide prevention event) for 198 students
  - 5 Blood Drives (3 on-campus and 2 virtual)
  - 13 community organization programs to include:
    - Sexual assault/domestic violence prevention
    - Sexual health, nutritional insecurity
    - LGBTQI+ health
    - Gambling addiction prevention
  - 213 student evaluations completed