



University Senate TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Presenter:	Edward Walters, Chair of the Campus Affairs Committee
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Voting (highlight one):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On resolutions or recommendations one by one, or 2. In a single vote 3. To endorse entire report 4. For information only
Statement of Issue:	The Campus Affairs Committee is charged annually with holding a campus-wide Safety Forum, gathering input on safety and security issues at UMD, and documenting these findings in a Safety Report.
Relevant Policy # & URL:	N/A
Recommendation:	To review the report.
Committee Work:	The Campus Affairs Committee began planning their annual Safety Forum in February 2010. As suggested by a Committee member, the issue of sexual assault was highlighted as a special focus of the Forum. In March and April of 2010 the Committee secured four guest speakers and arranged the logistics of the event. Guest speakers included Paul Dillon from the Public Safety Department, Elliott Morris from the Student Government Association, Allison Bennett from the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program, and Mollie Monahan-Kreishman, Matt Supple, and Meghan Cohen from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The Safety Forum took place on the evening of Tuesday April 13, 2010. The Campus Affairs Committee composed the annual Safety Report from the information presented at this Forum. Additionally, the Campus Affairs Committee included the Student Government Association's on-campus and off-campus Safety Walk reports in the final document.
Alternatives:	N/A
Risks:	N/A
Financial Implications:	N/A
Further Approvals Required:	N/A

Campus Affairs Committee Safety Report 2010

On April 13, 2010 the Campus Affairs Committee held its annual campus-wide Safety Forum for members of the University community to discuss safety issues on the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) campus. The 2010 Safety Forum featured a special emphasis on the issue of sexual assault. Following a general safety presentation by Paul Dillon from the campus Public Safety Department, guest speakers Elliott Morris (Student Government Association), Allison Bennett (Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program), and Mollie Monahan-Kreishman, Matt Supple, and Meghan Cohen (Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life) spoke to the issue of sexual assault. The following pages provide an overview of the information presented at the Safety Forum and the discussion that followed. Also included in this document are the Student Government Association's on campus and off campus Safety Walk reports.

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Paul Dillon: Department of Public Safety

Paul Dillon, a retired major from the University of Maryland Department of Public Safety (currently a civilian with the agency in charge of the Internal Affairs Division) emphasized the array of services Public Safety offers for all members of the campus community. Whether it be the camera system, escort service, or criminal investigators, the Department of Public Safety focuses on prevention and takes enforcement of UMD policies and laws very seriously. Dillon has been with the Department since 1987 and can say unequivocally that the University administration has been, and continues to be, extremely supportive of public safety initiatives. Even in tough budget times the Department of Public Safety has fared very well.

Dillon offered a brief statistical background of crime at UMD. In the past three years crime on campus, generally speaking, has gone down about 30-35%. The same is true of College Park and Prince George's County (currently at 35 year lows). About 30 years ago the crime rate was 60% higher on campus. People didn't know about all of this crime however because there weren't the same methods for dissemination of information as there are today. Mass emails, websites, the Diamondback, etc. have all contributed to increased availability of crime information. The accessibility and availability of this kind of information is very useful, although it does create the perception that crime is much higher than it actually is (both on and off campus). This public perception of crime is something that the Public Safety Department has to respond to and manage as crime information becomes more visible.

Elliott Morris: Student Government Association Senior Vice President

Morris related an experience he recently had as a Residential Assistant (RA) on North Campus. Morris described the "Got Consent" posters that are displayed around UMD – big black posters that are a spin on the "Got Milk" ads. As an RA Morris ended up with a stack of about 25 of these posters and was not sure what to do with them. One day, Morris decided to cover one of the walls in the dormitory with the posters (on the men's side). All of the sudden there was no one in this hallway and things got very, very quiet. A few weeks later Morris went to the students living in this hallway and asked, "What's going on? Does this make you uncomfortable?" The general consensus was, "yes." Just having these posters on prominent display and drawing attention to sexual assault made students uncomfortable. This seems to point to a broader issue of sexual literacy on the UMD campus. This is a topic that is very difficult to talk about. The last time Morris recalls a campus-wide discussion about an issue relating to sex was when the pornography controversy arose last year. Morris stated that 21% of men have never taken action against sexual assault in any way, simply because no one has ever asked them to. Morris stated that he would like to take this opportunity to ask the men in the room to individually take action on this issue. In general, people need to be willing to have this tough discussion both with people they know and maybe with people they don't know who they see engaging in poor behavior. Last year as an RA Morris did an activity (following the campus discussions surrounding the porn issue) where the men told the women all of the unofficial "rules" of public bathrooms, and vice versa. These kinds of simple conversations lead to individuals being more comfortable talking about sex in general and sexual assault

specifically. Morris encouraged each member of the audience to talk to one person this week (that they haven't talked to before) about a sex related issue and to get these conversations happening.

Allison Bennett: Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program

Bennett's goal for her presentation was to give an overview of the issues of sexual violence on campus and what programs are currently in place to address these issues. Also, why aren't people reporting these crimes and what can we do about it?

The Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program (SARPP) offers services to the entire University of Maryland Community and is based out of the University Health Center. The program changed their name two years ago when two offices, the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, and the Office of the Victim Advocate, joined together to form SARPP. Sexual Violence is an umbrella term that includes sexual assault, relationship and dating violence, stalking behaviors, and sexual harassment. In terms of prevalence, the statistics are scary. The people most likely to be victimized on a college campus are women, by far. Men are more likely to be victimized before the age of 18, while women are more likely to be victimized between the ages of 12-34. Typical college-aged women from 18-24 therefore are at an increased risk of being sexually assaulted.

National statistics show that one in five women will become the victim of sexual violence during their time in college. There is something about the college environment that increases the likelihood of this crime happening (versus if the same woman was not attending a college or university). One in five women will be in an abusive relationship during their time in college. Additionally, one in four women and one in six men will be the victim of rape in their lifetime. During college the prevalence is one in five women for rape. In a study that was just done on the UMD campus, 13.5% of the women who responded to a survey reported that they were the victim of rape during one year. One in 12 women and one in 45 men will be the victim of stalking in their lifetime. These statistics are based on the experiences of those who seek services from SARPP (not from crime reports). SARPP has worked with 513 clients total (since the program was established), or an average of about 100 clients per year. Of these 513 clients, 225 identified rape as the offense for which they were seeking services, 52 identified a sexual assault or sexual offense, 29 came forward because of gang rape, and 16 for attempted rape.

Sexual violence is any sexual act that occurs without all participants giving consent. Participants that do not give consent may be unwilling, or unable. If there is no consent given there may be force involved, or the threat of force. In the case of substantial incapacitation (e.g. drug or alcohol induced state) individuals may not legally be able to give consent. In the State of Maryland consent is defined as "affirmative, freely given agreement that can be withdrawn at any point." Therefore, if at any point someone chooses not to participate anymore, they are able to withdraw their consent.

SARPP has an education aspect and a response aspect. SARPP's primary mission is to respond to incidents of sexual assault, dating and relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment within the UMD community. SARPP works with faculty, staff, and students and anyone connected to these community members such as family, partners, and friends. SARPP provides support, assistance, referrals, and services through various methods (e.g. email, phone, in person), and advocates for victims

to ensure that they have a safe and comfortable experience in their interactions with systems on the college campus. Finally SARPP works to educate the campus community and help prevent these crimes from occurring.

If a sexual assault has occurred there are a wide variety of options for the victim. One of the questions often asked is, why aren't more victims coming forward and reporting? From a victim advocacy perspective, reporting a crime is only one of the victim's options after an assault occurs. While there are things that can be very helpful about reporting, for a victim, this is only one of the options they can choose to pursue. SARPP assists victims in navigating their options (e.g. seeking medical care, mental health care, sexual assault forensic exams, reporting to the police or campus officials, filing for a civil or protective or peace order, reporting to the Office of Student Conduct, seeking to change housing). Making a report is a huge decision. There is no timeline for making a report but evidence and victim memory degrade over time and access to witnesses may become more difficult. Survivors have to make a lot of decisions immediately following the traumatic event of a sexual assault. For example, victims have to decide if they want to interact with the criminal justice system and/or the Office of Student Conduct. The Office of Student Conduct is responsible for administering the University Student Code of Conduct. However, there is a limit of the scope of crime that can be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. The accused student must be a current UMD student and the crime must have taken place on campus.

What is the University doing right now to address sexual assault on campus? SARPP offers prevention education and trains peer educators to give prevention workshops to anyone who requests them in the UMD community. Peer educators also talk about the definitions of consent and sexual assault and what to do if you or someone you know has been assaulted. SARPP works to raise awareness on campus of the possibility of these crimes happening and what individuals can do to intervene. SARPP additionally works on many large-scale education projects such as the Clothesline Project, the Survivor Garden, etc. Educating the campus community is continual challenge however because the University environment is so transient. Education therefore must be a non-stop endeavor in order to continue to reach the entire community. In addition to education programs, SARPP also offers services to victims after something has happened or while it is occurring.

Recently the Health Center was awarded a large grant from the Department of Justice and the Office of Violence Against Women. Over the next three years the goal for that funding is to create and integrate mandatory prevention education for every incoming student at UMD. That means that all new members of this community will be trained on this issue. SARPP will also be looking into the policies and procedures surrounding these crimes.

Why would someone report and why would someone choose not to report a sexual Assault? Research shows that after a sexual assault people might choose to go forward and report the crime because: it affords them a feeling of empowerment, they are hopeful that the offender will be held accountable for their actions, and they hope they are helping to protect other potential victims. However, people may choose not report because: they might fear retaliation from the offender or the offender's friends, there is concern that they will be blamed for the assault, there is a feeling of lack of control (when you report

the information leaves your hands and your privacy is compromised), the victim will have to tell the story over and over, they believe it might not do any good to report, they might just want to move on and forget about it, or they are afraid of the consequences for the perpetrator. In the Maryland community, 90% of sexual assaults occur between individuals that know each other. One of the primary reason people don't report is that the response to sex crimes in our culture is a focus on what the victim did wrong rather than a focus on the perpetrator. This victim blaming is one of the most significant reasons individuals are afraid to come forward. They see how others who come forward are treated and are then hesitant to come forward themselves.

Why is there so much assault happening on campus? There are two kinds of rapists you typically see on a college campus. The single-act rapist, and the serial rapist. There is a lot of work that can be done to intervene with the single-act rapists. If each member of the UMD community is educated on the issue of sexual violence the single-act rapists will begin to fade away. The real problem lies in the serial rapists who don't think, believe, or care that what they are doing is wrong. If each of us takes responsibility for what we see and know is going on we can address this problem too. There are many myths about who is committing sex crimes. The common belief is that these kinds of assaults are committed by a disturbed stranger, and that if you use the buddy system you will be safe from this type of assault. Typically however, it is the people around us who we know that are committing these crimes. What we have to do is pull away the layers that make their actions possible and make them understand that their behavior is unacceptable. We have to be responsible for taking care of each other.

Mollie Monahan-Kreishman/Matt Supple/Meghan Cohen: Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Matt Supple spoke on behalf of Mollie Monahan-Kreishman who could not attend the event. Supple read the following statement from Monahan-Kreishman:

To the University of Maryland Community:

I am so sorry that I am unable to attend tonight's forum on campus safety issues, specifically focusing on sexual violence on campus. I feel blessed, though, to have so many great people working with me within the Fraternity and Sorority Community, one of whom is currently reading this letter to you.

For the purpose of tonight's forum, I was charged with telling you a little bit about my eight-year history on campus, including my experience around sexual violence issues and my role in the campus response.

I came to the University of Maryland in 2002, and was hired to partner with the also new Campus Victim Advocate (Nancy Hensler-McGinnis, and later Cortney Fisher) to create programs for the University of Maryland around sexual assault prevention and victim advocacy. We were the beginnings of what you now know as the SARPP – Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program. Nancy headed the victim advocacy side of the house and I headed up prevention, but because there were only two of us we worked very closely together and our jobs often overlapped. At the time, Nancy was the only victim advocate the campus had – she was on call 24 hours a day/seven days a week, unless she gave the pager to me. It was a tremendous job for one person to do, even with my periodic support.

I was in charge of everything else – large scale campus programs such as the Clothesline Project, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Stalking Awareness Month, Take Back the Night, and others. I was also charged with overseeing the SAFER program- Student Advocates for Education about Rape. This program is now known as the SARPP Education Program.

While I was at the Health Center, we helped to grow the programs through grant funding for a total of six staff members and well over twenty-five peer educators and advocates. As our programs became more popular, and students felt more and more comfortable utilizing our resources, we started gaining a greater understanding of how big the issue of sexual violence was on campus.

When we had expected to see lots of he said/she said regretted sex situations, we were instead seeing gang rape. When we had expected to see situations that were grey and confusing, we saw premeditated druggings. When we had expected to see situations that were bad, but not overtly violent, we saw premeditated violence at levels we would not have expected on any college campus.

I should stop here to say that what is happening on the College Park campus is not unique. This type of sexual violence is present for all of our peer institutions, and for colleges and universities all over the United States. We're just hearing about it more because our students feel comfortable with our resources.

Not only were we alarmed by the actual acts of sexual violence we were learning about on campus, we were equally alarmed by the response coming from friends of victims and survivors. When we had expected to see sorority sisters reaching out to help each other, we saw them instead tearing each other down with victim blaming. When we had expected to see college age women helping each other through difficult times, we saw victims and survivors being shunned from the support networks they so desperately needed.

At that time, we started reaching out across campus to different departments to try to partner on ways in which we could really address the issue of sexual violence. While we had lots of success with different departments, I am going to focus here on the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. We started meeting weekly with Matt Supple, and found one of many great allies all over campus who wanted to do whatever they could to address this issue.

That's when we started doing a lot of work with Fraternity and Sorority Life. We tried some programming and some outreach, but we just didn't see the outcomes we wanted to see in terms of culture change within the community. It was at that point that DFSL said the one thing to me that I believe lead to real change.

WE'RE READY TO TRY ANYTHING. WE NEED TO DO SO MUCH MORE TO MAKE SURE OUR COMMUNITY IS SAFE FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS.

And that's when I shared an idea that I'd had for years. It had seemed almost too much to ask—we needed too much staffing, too many committed hours from the students, and lots and lots of training. We needed all of this at a time of budget cuts and program elimination. I had no idea how they were

going to respond, but they really liked the idea. And with a little grant funding and lots of volunteer support from students, faculty and staff, we made it happen.

That's when the Ten Man Plan and Ten Woman Plan Sexual Violence Prevention Program was born. Soon after that, I was hired by the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life to run the program specifically for the University of Maryland Greek Community. It is only one example of the large commitment DFSL has made to this issue.

The concept is this – let's bring 10 members together from each individual organization to discuss the issue of sexual violence and to make change within their own organization and the greek community at large. The program is based on critical mass and tipping point theories – get a small group of people within the community to be well educated about a certain topic, and they can change how the community thinks and responds to the issue.

To date, we've had almost twenty of our chapters participate in the program. Slightly more of those groups are fraternities and slightly less are sororities. We assign a trained facilitator (faculty, staff or graduate student) to a specific greek chapter, and that facilitator stays with them for anywhere between one semester to many years, depending on need and availability. They discuss sexual assault issues in general, victim blaming, bystander intervention, helping skills, resources on campus and lots of other topics related to rape culture. Then men focus mainly on how to get men talking about the issue, making the right decisions, and helping the women in their lives heal from trauma. The women focus mainly on empathy building, and how to be good sisters when they find out that one of their members has been sexually assaulted.

Our assessment indicates that our programs are making good change within our community. Our women report feeling better prepared to help sisters, and our men are doing a great job of addressing rape supportive attitudes.

There is still a lot of good work to be done, but we think we're on the right track. Fraternities and sororities are eager to participate in our programs, and we are eager to train future facilitators so that we can offer the program to a wider audience.

Special thanks to the SGA and the Campus Affairs Committee for making this important event happen. Thank you to Meghan Cohen, Matt Supple, members of the Ten Man Plan and Ten Woman Plan, and to the SARPP – all of you give me hope for a violence free future. Could those of you in the audience participating in our programs please stand up. Let's give them a round of applause.

Thanks so much for your time!

Mollie M. Monahan-Kreishman
Doctoral Candidate, College Student Personnel
Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator
Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life
University of Maryland

Open Forum

Question: A BSOS student senator asked about the Code of Student Conduct. As understood by the speaker, sexual assaults are not punishable by the University if they take place off campus. To the speaker's knowledge, many students, if not most, live off campus. Obviously, our policies are not protecting students off campus from these kinds of assaults, or holding perpetrators accountable (this is especially frustrating considering that students are being held accountable by the University for the recent riots that took place off campus). Can you address the discrepancy?

Answer: Dillon responded that from his understanding of the Code of Student Conduct, students must be convicted of a felony in order for the University to get involved in an activity that happened off campus. The problem is getting to this conviction. If the crime occurs on campus the Office of Student Conduct does not have to wait for the results of the criminal justice system to take action. Most sex crimes are considered felonies and the University can hold a student accountable for an off campus sexual assault if that student is convicted.

Bennett responded that this question highlights again how sex crimes are often treated differently than other crimes and this is a challenge. This is one of the issues that SARPP hopes to address at a policy level.

Dillon added that sex crimes are also treated differently in positive ways. For example, sex offenders are registered. If you live next to a sex offender you know (versus if you live next to a murderer, you wouldn't necessarily have a way of knowing). Some sex crimes are taken more seriously than others, but as a whole sex crimes are definitely treated differently.

Question: An SGA legislator commented on Morris's story about the "Got Consent" posters. It doesn't seem like there is any kind of large-scale discussion about consent. Has the University considered implementing a large-scale consent education program?

Answer: Bennett reminded the speaker of the grant mentioned earlier that SARPP has received from the Department of Justice. SARPP is planning on using this grant to integrate mandatory sexual assault education for incoming students, similar to what is currently being done for alcohol education. This need has been identified and now the resources are finally there.

Question: A BSOS Undergraduate student Senator commented on living off campus during the summer. During winter break there had been targeted robberies and assaults because the community knows that many students vacate the area during this time. What is the community of College Park and the University planning to do to keep residents safe over the summer and during these times when there are fewer students around?

Answer: Dillon referenced the recent spike in robberies that occurred over spring break. UMD Public Safety met with the PG County police about this topic and offered their assistance with these off campus crimes that affect our students. The PG County Police have a great crime prevention program in place already but many students do not know about it. For example, PG officers will come out to your house or apartment and work with you on home safety. UMD Public Safety plans to meet with PG County Police again before the summer to work on ways to educate the campus community about these services.

Morris added that street lights can be fixed by contacting any member of the SGA who will then contact PEPCO to come out and fix the lights.

Question: An engineering Undergraduate student Senator/member of the Campus Affairs Committee asked about a recent article in the Diamondback highlighting a discrepancy in the reporting of sexual assaults to SARPP, the Office of Student Conduct, and Public Safety. How is Public Safety addressing this discrepancy in reports?

Answer: Dillon responded that the discrepancy in crime numbers is highest when it comes to sexual assaults. Public Safety has to report two kinds of crime numbers. One set of crime numbers goes to the FBI and is called "Uniformed Crime Reports" (everyone in the country has to report these numbers). These are the crimes that are reported to the police. Usually the numbers for sexual assault at UMD are very low (in the single digits if not zero) in the Uniformed Crime Report. The other set of numbers Public Safety has to report are the "Cleary" statistics which are required by the Department of Education. These numbers include crimes that are reported to all offices on campus (not just to the police). In the case of sexual assaults, this means that the crimes reported to SARPP are counted (as well as crimes reported to Deans, Department Chairs, Athletic Coaches, etc.). The police do not investigate the crimes reported to other offices because they are not given names, but they do keep records of these statistics. There is a significant discrepancy between these two sets of numbers (between the Uniformed Crime Reports and the Cleary) in regards to sexual assaults. Most other crimes do not have this kind of discrepancy.

Working with other offices on campus is really important for Public Safety because their main goal is to investigate the crime, go after the perpetrator, and do what cops do. SARPP is in place to support the victim, while the police are in place to investigate the crime. Therefore, this relationship is so important, especially since SARPP is receiving most of the sexual assault reports. There is often a fear of the police and how they will react to a sexual assault case which causes victims not to report to the police. All officers do go through training on sexual assault but these cases are difficult because of the distrust from the public towards the police in the handling of these issues. Be assured that the police do take these crimes very seriously. However, victims of sexual crimes also often do not want to go through the process of an investigation so they choose not to report to the police.

Bennett added that the more people are aware of the SARPP resources the more victims can be informed and educated about the process of reporting to the police. There is a lot of misinformation

about what happens when you report a sex crime to the police, but SARPP can walk a victim through this process. SARPP is also building relationships with the PG Hospital Center where all the forensic exams for the County are done, as well as the State's Attorney Office. The system is bureaucratic and difficult to navigate, especially after a victim has just experienced a crisis, and an advocate from SARPP can be incredibly helpful.

Question: The Student Government Association (SGA) President referenced the documented increase in sexual assaults that occur amongst fraternity and sorority members outside of the College Park area at specific times (e.g. when people go away over winter break). Is there any kind of education program in place for fraternities and sororities that specifically addresses this problem?

Answer: Cohen responded that, in regards to the Ten Man Plan/Ten Woman Plan, the work has been focused on helping sorority sisters be better sisters to each other, and fraternity brothers be better brothers to each other. One of the main pillars of this program is values congruence: doing what you say you are going to do. Do the values of your sorority/fraternity align with your current behavior? This is something that there are constantly conversations going on about regarding every aspect of student lives. As far as Ten Man Plan/Ten Woman Plan, there is a focus on how to stand up to your brothers that are acting inappropriately, and how to help victims heal and connect to resources.

Bennett added that the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) has an additional procedure in place during the times where there is a notable increase in sexual violence (e.g. before spring break, homecoming). OFSL has a policy that all fraternities and sororities and their matchup have discussions about sexual assault and how to keep people safe prior to these noted times.

Question: The SGA president asked if the size of the SARPP Office and the funding they receive is adequate to provide the services needed on this campus?

Answer: Bennett replied that currently SARPP is funded through some small grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention and through some of the operating expenses of the University Health Center (student fees). SARPP currently has one full-time staff member and two part-time staff members. Depending on what grant are in place at any given time there may be an additional half-time person in the office. Additionally there are two teams of peers: a team of 12 peer educators and a team of seven peer advocates. This is how SARPP can provide 24 hour coverage. Many of the other institutions of similar size to UMD do not have designated services specifically for sexual assault. UMD has a good leading edge in this regard. As far as the number of clients coming in, the office is currently just able to meet the need on this campus. However, when you look at the statistics and realize how many individuals are not coming in for services, you see that the office could be overwhelmed if all of those assaulted came in for services.

Question: A member of the Senate Campus Affairs Committee asked what actions the campus should be taking to be more proactive about addressing the issues being discussed at this forum?

Answer: Bennett replied that administratively the University has good things in place, good programs, good resources, and good staff. The challenge is evaluating how effective we are being. Bennett believes that the University needs to focus the bulk of its attention on the student body and activating each individual to respond in a caring manner if they find out that someone has been sexually assaulted, and helping that person connect to resources. Additionally the student body needs to be intervening and actively discussing the violence that is already occurring on campus. Students need to be proactive with what they see and hear and educate their peers.

Dillon stated that from a Public Safety perspective, this is a very difficult crime to prevent. Sexual assaults are most often taking place between individuals who already know each other and behind closed doors. Therefore the cops can't be around to prevent these crimes. It all comes down to education and motivating members of this community to talk about this topic and make it a front page issue. We have to get students talking about this.

Morris added that the classroom is an ideal location for these conversations to take place because you have a built in audience and can guide the discussion. Perhaps UNIV 100 would be an appropriate place for this topic to be addressed and to reach a large section of the student body.

Cohen agreed that educating the entire University community on this issue is very important. We need to make the University a place where it is ok to talk about this subject and where community members discuss these issues in an appropriate and productive way. Furthermore, we need to make this University a place where this kind of behavior is unacceptable and where people who want to commit these types of crimes will not feel comfortable doing so.

Question: A member of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice noted that perceptions of crime and the reality of crime do not always match. One of the goals of SARPP is to encourage those who are victims of sexual assault to come forward and report. What will happen when more sexual assault crimes are being reported and the crime statistics for our community rise? How will the University react to the increased fear that will likely result from a rise in documented sexual violence?

Answer: Dillon responded that this is one crime statistic Public Safety wants to see rise. Yes, the Department would have to manage the investigations for the increased number of reports but they are prepared to do this. Without a doubt this would be a positive thing to have this crime reported more often and the Department is not worried about dealing with the uptick in crime. Overall this should help reduce the numbers of sexual assaults as potential perpetrators see others being convicted and being held accountable for their actions. This will also raise people's awareness.

Bennett agreed that raising awareness to what is already happening is very important. Yes this may increase the level of fear, and SARPP would have to increase the visibility of their services as the false sense of security is chipped away from the campus community.

Question: A student asked, what is the next step in addressing these issues, increasing motivation, and putting the conversations happening in this room into action?

Answer: Dillon emphasized that we really need student involvement in this issue and that the motivation for student involvement needs to come from the student body, not from the administration. Students do not react well if rules are forced down on them from above, and peer education is much more effective.

Campus Affairs Committee Chair Ed Walters reminded the audience that the comments heard at tonight's Forum will be documented and presented to the University Senate Executive Committee and the University Administration. This is an important step in moving forward on these issues.

Bennett responded that current students need work on becoming comfortable discussing these issues and they need to help administrators stay informed as to what is relevant now (which will likely be different than what was relevant two years ago). Students will feel defensive if these conversations are not appropriately handled and initiated. Most people in our community are not hurting anyone, but everyone needs to be talking about this.

Morris emphasized that UNIV 100 would be a very appropriate place for this issue to be addressed further, as well as within the Senate Campus Affairs Committee.

On Campus Safety Walk Report

2009

Elliott Morris
Senior Vice President
Elliott@umd.edu



University of Maryland
Student Government Association

Introduction

The annual Campus Safety Walk provides students, administrators and staff the opportunity to interact and solve real and perceived safety issues. The Walk raises attendees' awareness of where and why students feel unsafe and involves the responsible agencies who can make the necessary improvements and changes.

History

The Campus Safety Walk has been an annual survey of the campus for at least fifteen years and was originally overseen by the Department of Public Safety. The Student Government Association expanded the program and now annually hosts the Walk.

Past Successes

The Safety Walk has made significant improvements to campus safety and past successes include:

2008 (Joanna Calabrese, SGA Sr. VP):

- Mowatt La by Hillel - Stop sign and concrete blocks
- Knox Rd between Commons and Knox Towers - Crosswalk created
- Norwich Rd. terminus by Old Leonardtown - Brush cleared
- Plant Science Building Raised Crosswalk - Lighting increased
- Bridge by Lot XX - Trees trimmed

pre-2008:

- Behind Stamp – Lighting and blue light access increased
- Bridge behind ERC – Lighting and light fixture layout improved

Method

The Walk route is created through a combination of student surveys and student interviews, along with significant input from Department of Public Safety (DPS) officials. The SGA Senior VP and other SGA members conduct the survey and interviews by having participants place safety pins onto a map where they feel unsafe. The pin placement helps determine the Walk's route while the anecdotal evidence is used to advise the cause(s) for concern. The Senior VP also does a ride along with an officer in the Department of Public Safety to see areas of concern. In 2009, Captain John Brandt and Sr. VP Elliott Morris reviewed the 2008 Walk's route and examined other issues raised by DPS.

Data

Student input showcased areas of concern like parking lots with encroaching brush, areas of lower lighting and a lack of bus stop. Construction areas also garnered significant student concerns. Cpt. Brandt pointed out the orange bus stop on Regents Dr. as a chief concern. Crime overall on campus has declined relative to recent years. DPS attributes this to an increase in awareness of services offered.

Lot 1d

- No bus service nearby
- Brush was “creepy” and created easy hiding places
- Low lighting in the northwest corner
- No nearby “safe place”

Mowatt Lane

- Students feel unsafe walking lone here
- Tree line creates a very dark border to one side

Commons 7/Lot S4

- Construction was “eerie”
- Blue lights not present
- Lighting low on the east side of the building
- Students feel unsafe walking alone

Orange line bus stop on Regents Dr. by Route 1

- Students sit on the curb with their legs in the road as cars pass
- The bus stop sees high traffic
- Cars are slowed only by guard station between the stop and Route 1

Leonardtown Quad

- Low trees and branches create a canopy that blocks light and camera access
- Existing blue light is not in an optimal spot
- Camera coverage is poor due to camera location and trees

Lot 2

- Blue light(s) is not functioning and not in the best location(s)
- Brush at the bottom of the lot creates hiding places and shadows
- Low Light at the back of the lot, near construction and by the CYC on the walk up
- No bus stop present
- Pipe from construction

Other Areas

In addition to the above areas, a significant number of students cited locations off campus, behind Stamp and behind ERC as areas where they felt unsafe. These were

not included in the Walk as they have been addressed in the past, they meet industry standards in lighting and they have blue light phones in close proximity. In 2009, the first Off Campus Safety Walk addressed concerns of safety off campus.

Proposed Changes

Lot 1d

1. Add lights to existing poles
2. Trim back brush to the edge of the ditch line
3. Raise tree in median to allow better lighting
4. Ensure good viewing angles of the lot, especially the back portions

Additional Comments: The Facilities Master Plan calls for Presidential Dr. to be extended to Union Dr., which will turn Lot 1d into a road. This should dissolve problems with lighting and view. Additionally, the new journalism building will provide an excellent spot from which to monitor the whole of Lot 1.

Mowatt Lane and Commons 7/Lot S4

Comments: When construction on Commons 7 is complete, lighting, blue light presence and foot traffic should mitigate the concerns. The student perception of safety surrounding Commons 7 should be revisited once it is fully functioning in the Spring 2010 semester. In the meantime, temporary lighting is sufficient.

Orange bus stop on Regents Dr. by Route 1

5. Create a bigger bus stop with benches in the area of the visitor's sign
 - Specifically, a concrete skirt added towards the pine tree behind the sign was suggested
 - To pull even more people away from the road, shelter could be added
6. Turn the Lot N*2 spots into a bus pull-in

Additional Comments: If the bus stop is moved in proximity to the sign, a covering would provide shelter to visitors using the sign and would also provide a space to post bus schedules, the NITE-Ride phone number and related information. Additionally, the effect of a bus pull in on the operations of the guardhouse should be considered.

Leonardtown Quad

7. Add a camera to the blue light
8. Relocate the blue light to a more centralized position
9. Trim the trees in the vicinity
10. Lights near backsides of buildings 239, 241 and 242 near the parking lot

Additional Comments: Leonardtown is slated to become East Campus and environmental safety concerns of the University like blue light and camera locations, police and fire access and the number of real and perceived hiding places should be taken into consideration during the design phases.

Lot 2

11. Blue lights should come back online
12. Trim tree line along the back of the lot
13. Talk to the construction company about the pipe
14. Open the walkway between the CYC and the construction site

Additional Comments: The lack of blue lights and lighting in general should be mitigated once Oakland Hall is complete. But for the present, construction again causes students to feel unsafe.

Long-Term, Large Impact

15. Construction presented a major concern for students' perceptions of safety. Examining successful management of student concerns could lead to guidelines for how construction on campus can be less dangerous and frightening. In the long run, construction arguably increases safety as it brings students closer to each other, connects campus more and provides new incentives for safety features. However, students should not be forced to avoid construction through the transition phase.

16. The process through which students report broken lights is not well known. Increased advertising of this, and the possible inclusion of brush to this hotline would help the University more readily hear students' concerns.

Conclusion

The Safety Walk is an excellent forum for sharing information, but the real measure of its' success is the implementation of its' recommendations. The sites examined were well critiqued and a few of the proposed changes were already implemented. No. 11 was implemented within a week thanks to the Department of Public Safety's prompt action. The implementation of the above items will help make Safety Walk 2009 a success and the University of Maryland community a safer place.

Off Campus Safety Walk Report

2009

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University of Maryland
Student Government Association

Introduction

The annual Safety Walk provides students, administrators and staff the opportunity to interact and solve real and perceived safety issues. The Walk raises attendees' awareness of where and why students feel unsafe and involves the responsible agencies who can make the necessary improvements and changes. This year, both an On Campus and an Off Campus Walk helped differentiate between safety concerns and involved parties.

History

The Safety Walk has been an annual survey of the campus for at least fifteen years and was originally overseen by the Department of Public Safety. The Student Government Association expanded the program and now annually hosts the Walk. Past walks were focused on campus, but occasionally included off campus stops, but 2009 is the first year with two walks.

Past Successes

The On Campus Safety Walk has made significant improvements to campus safety and past successes include:

2008 (Joanna Calabrese, SGA Sr. VP):

- Mowatt La by Hillel - Stop sign and concrete blocks
- Knox Rd between Commons and Knox Towers - Crosswalk created
- Norwich Rd. terminus by Old Leonardtown - Brush cleared
- Plant Science Building Raised Crosswalk - Lighting increased
- Bridge by Lot XX - Trees trimmed

pre-2008:

- Behind Stamp – Lighting and blue light access increased
- Bridge behind ERC – Lighting and light fixture layout improved

Method

The Off Campus Walk route was created solely through student surveys and interviews. The SGA Senior VP and other SGA members conduct the survey and interviews by having participants place safety pins onto a map where they feel unsafe in the surrounding off campus area. Over 100 students' input was considered in planning the 2009 Safety Walk

Data

Student input concentrated on pedestrian safety and the general feeling of being unsafe. Nearby speeding traffic and a lack of crosswalks were the largest pedestrian concerns. Broken lights, lack of sidewalks and shrubbery near the road created the greatest feelings of insecurity.

East of Route 1

Lighting

Streetlights were often out, flickering or dimmed.

Pepco manages the city's lights with a 6 month goal of fixing problems

Shrubbery

Many houses had large shrubs placed by the road

These created potential hiding places and large shadows that decreased perceptions of safety

Sidewalks

People have to walk in the road where there are no sidewalks

Calvert Road was one example of well-perceived road; it was well lit, had wide sidewalks and an emergency blue light.

Route 1 and Knox Road

Students highlighted this intersection during data collection. Pedestrian safety, especially as bars let out, was the chief safety concern for students and participants of the walk.

Pedestrian Safety

Short timing on the crosswalks combined with a culture of crossing the street at-will helped make this intersection a safety risk for pedestrians. The northwest portion of the intersection has a brick wall that keeps people from crossing the street anywhere but at designated intersections. The southeastern side has no protection and vehicles were observed driving within feet of pedestrians at speeds in excess of 50 mph. There has been a student pedestrian fatality in past.

Crowd Control

Students also brought up feeling unsafe with the crowd of people loitering outside of Cornerstone and Bentley's.

Missing Crosswalks

In front of 7-11 students continuously cross the road into the shopping center's parking lot. This is combined with a poorly designed intersection with cars entering and exiting the 7-11 and shopping centers' parking lots. While on the walk, cars hopping the curb while turning and many students crossing the street here were observed.

At the intersection of Rossburg Drive and Knox Road, students cross the street to reach a bus stop. There is no crosswalk for a quarter mile in either direction, but students were seen just during the time of the walk crossing the street here.

Unsafe Bus Stops

At the above-mentioned intersection of Rossburg Drive and Knox Road there is a bus stop without a nearby blue light. Students who routinely waited at this bus stop said

they would often walk to a different place rather than wait here because they did not feel safe.

Another bus stop, on Hartwick Road behind the Shopping Center, was cited as a place that students did not feel comfortable waiting.

Trip Hazard

The sidewalk northeast corner of Route 1 and Hartwick Road is broken and crumbling. This presents a trip hazard as well as a problem to anyone in a wheelchair.

Proposed Changes

East of Route 1

Lighting

1. Inventory the broken lights in College Park
2. Contact Pepco periodically with the problems until the lights are fixed
3. The City of College Park buys the contract from Pepco

Note: The city is waiting to pursue this option until a similar test case is completed in another municipality.

Shrubbery

4. Work with civic associations to ensure homeowners have appropriate vegetation guidelines and that they are enforced
5. Continue data collection to highlight specific houses

Sidewalks

6. Install sidewalks on high pedestrian streets

Route 1 and Knox Road

7. Two proposed solutions came up on the Walk. First, an iron fence in the median that would prevent people from crossing the street away from the crosswalk. This would cost less than the second option, a brick barrier on the southeast side of the street, similar to the northwest side. This would make people cross the street in the correct place and also keep people from being hit by close-passing cars.

8. Increasing the timing of the pedestrian crosswalks would also help people cross the street more safely.

Missing Crosswalks

9. A crosswalk in front of the 7-11 would be an excellent way to guide students to a single place, but the gradient of the street presents safety concerns. Working with the city to find a non-slick paint would be one way to reduce the risk of vehicles being unable to stop in time for the Route 1 light downhill of this location.

10. At the intersection of Rossburg Drive and Knox Road a crosswalk would help students safely cross, where they are doing so anyway. There is a gradient here as well, though much lower than the above location. One side of the street already has an ADA ramp as well.

Unsafe Bus Stops

11. Installing remote blue lights at the intersection of Rossburg Drive and Knox Road and by the bus stop behind the shopping center would increase the feelings of

safety there. This would also expand blue light coverage to student used areas that are not currently covered.

Trip Hazard

12. The State Highway Administration should be contacted about the broken sidewalk on the northwest corner of Hartwick and Route 1.

Conclusion

The Off Campus Safety Walk brought together a number of student safety concerns. The success of the forum will now be measured by how well the numerous stakeholders can work together to find solutions. Hopefully even during these fiscally trying times, there will be money for targeted safety improvements within the College Park community. Recommendations that take fewer resources, like numbers 1,2,4,5,8,12 should definitely be accomplished. The brick wall (#7) and the crosswalk in front of 7-11 (#9) would drastic improvements in perceived and real student safety but require community resources to be invested.