

TO: Dr. Zvi Szafran  
President

FROM: Derek Converse  
Campus Safety Committee Chair

DATE: October 29, 2024

SUBJECT: 2023 – 2024 Annual Campus Safety Committee Report

Attached is the 2023-2024 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  
L. VanderZee  
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

## **2023-2024 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 2023-2024 was the following:

1. Derek Converse –Chair, Environmental Health and Safety Manager
2. Alondra Maranda – Student Representative
3. Lavender McCall – Student Representative
4. Allison Lashway - Student Representative
5. John Kennedy – Director of Residence Life
6. Tammy LaPage-Avery – University Police Officer 1

7. William Myers – Associate Professor& Business Dept. Chair, Business & Liberal Arts
8. Jamie Sovie – Instructional Support Technician, Science, Health & Criminal Justice
9. Nichole Heldt, Professor, Science, Health & Criminal Justice

**Ex Officio Members**

1. Martin Avery – Director of Physical Plant Operations
2. Brad Winters – Facilities and Operations Manager, College Association
3. Michael McCormick – Assistant Vice President for Facilities
4. James Sheppard – Assistant Director of Counseling
5. Tim Ashley – Chief of University Police
6. Tina Flanagan – Assistant Director of HR
7. Julie Cruickshank – Associate Director of Health Services
8. Brett Furnia – Maintenance Supervisor 3, CSEA Representative

**SUNY CANTON SAFETY COMMITTEE ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

- Two Committee meetings were conducted during the 2023-2024 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 (8/26/23, 9/6/23, 12/3/23)
- More than 25 campus-wide email and text message notices were sent out on health and safety issues, including: Mental Wellness (9/5/23, 10/3/23, 10/18/23, 10/23/23, 2/2/24, 2/5/24, 2/23/24, 3/29/24, Physical Wellness (9/3/23, 9/12/24, 9/16/24, 9/23/24, Blood Drives (9/14/23, 9/29/23, 2/6/23, 4/9/23), Vaccination Clinics (9/26/23, 10/10/24), Title IX (10/3/23), Rave Alert (9/6/23, 9/12/23, 9/21/23) and Winter Storm Warnings (1/12/24, 4/3/24) and Extreme Heat Alert (6/17/24)
- Members of the Safety Committee conducted RA/RD Fire Safety Training for 26 RA/RDs to include hands-on fire extinguisher training at the beginning of the fall semester on 8/15/23.
- 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 225 residents of the Kennedy Hall suites on 9/21/23 and 9/22/23 culminating with a mock dorm room burn demonstration on 9/22/23.
- A Fall Annual Campus Safety Walk-Arounds was conducted on 11/8/23 at 4:00 pm attended by 6 faculty, staff and students. Twenty-one new issues/areas of concern were identified, addressed, and followed up on.

- A Spring Annual Campus Safety Walk-Around was conducted on 4/26/24 at 1:00 pm attended by 5 faculty, staff and students. Two 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.

## **TITLE IX**

The Title IX office at SUNY Canton has continued to prioritize creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Title IX focuses on preventing sexual misconduct and addressing gender-based discrimination through expanded educational programs, enhanced reporting procedures, and consistent support services. This year, the campus focused on increasing campus-wide awareness through workshops and training sessions while ensuring compliance with federal Title IX regulations. Our proactive initiatives are designed to foster a community where equity, respect, and safety remain at the forefront.

## **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 2023-2024 academic year that addressed safety and health issues.

### **Counseling Center:**

- Personal Counseling logged 1,962 sessions
- Responded to 34 crisis interventions
- 81 sessions through tele counseling
- Presented or co-sponsored 176 educational reaching 9,980 contacts. and stress reducing programs. The programs included:
  - Domestic Violence Awareness Programming
  - World Suicide Awareness Programming
  - Stress Awareness Programs
  - Opioid Vision Goggles
  - Studley Hill Golden's Therapy Dogs
  - The Tall Cop Substance Abuse Prevention Program
  - Fearful to Fearless Program
- Additional Resources Provided By SUNY
  - SUNY Crisis Text Line
  - Middle Earth Peer to Peer Assistance Hotline
  - Tele health psychiatric services
- Renzi Food Pantry
  - 269 requests filled for food supplies given out to students in need

## **Diversity and New Student Orientation**

- Book Talk by Anastasia Curwood
- ACSLV Seminar Series on Microaggressions
- Pasofino Social Club
- Cody Blackbird Performance
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- Movie “Selma”
- Kotchenga Dance Troupe
- Bettie Mae Fikes Speaking Engagement

## **Facilities Management:**

- Capital Improvement Construction Projects
  - Improve Accessibility Nevaldine North & South
  - Reconstruct Chaney Dining Hall Parking Lot for Accessibility
  - Site improvements to French Hall and Roselle Plaza to include improvements in walkways, granite retaining walls and lighting
  - Reconstruction of walkways between Payson, Rushton & Heritage Halls
  - Improve accessibility and site improvements at CARC
- Minor Critical Maintenance Projects
  - Replace CARC Vesda fire alarm
  - Fire alarm system upgrades
  - Replace Dana Hall entrance glass roof
  - Repair synthetic turf field fence
- Civil Rights Compliance Review
- Aerial Lift Training for physical plant employees
- Respirator & Fit Testing for University Police, Physical Plant, Health Services, Facilities, and Environmental Health & Safety Staff
- Student Fire Safety Training
- Aerial Lift Training
- OSHA 10-Hour Training for physical plant employees

## **Health Services:**

- Provided care during over 2,400 students visits to the Health Center
  - Of the 2,400+ visits held, 38 were telehealth visits

## **Student Activities:**

- Welcome Weekend
- Family/Homecoming Weekend
- Spring fest
- Carnival of Clubs
- Open Houses
- Admitted Student Day Events

## **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
  - Orientation – overview of the University Police function and general campus regulations
  - Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention (Title IX)
  - Quality of Life Issues On and Off Campus
  - Drug Identification and Awareness
  - Quality of Life Issues on Campus
  - Drinking and Driving – Beer Goggles
  - Alcohol/Drug Abuse Awareness
  - Campus Security Authority Training
  - Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE)
  - Opiate Awareness Training
  - 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.
- A shelter-in-place drill was conducted on September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Overseeing and responding to Emergency & Blue Light Phones
- Regular surveys of on-campus lighting to ensure areas are adequately lit
- Utilizes 911 emergency system to assist members of the college community to contact University Police

## **Wellness Promotions:**

- Programs
  - 149 health education programs offered
  - 2,450 direct health education contacts
  - 1,292 indirect virtual health education contacts
  - 14,224 sexual health products distributed
  - Fresh Check Day, an uplifting mental health and suicide prevention event, (in collaboration with Counseling Center)
  - Blood Drives: 3 on-campus with 196 donations and 3 virtual with 1 completed donation.
  - Collaborated with Counseling Center to offer same evaluations to increase data
  - 98% of respondents at wellbeing programs found the program informative
  - Fresh Check Day evaluations indicated 89% of respondents felt more prepared to help a friend who is exhibiting warning signs of suicide or mental health concerns and 87% were more likely to ask for help if experiencing emotional distress.
  - 528 student evaluations completed
  - Campus and Community Connections Fair, 170 students participated in this resource fair aimed at reducing food insecurity