

**2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CAMPUS SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE  
6/30/2016**

The Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee (CSEQ) met eight times during the 2015-16 academic year (September 2015 through May 2016) to consider issues affecting the university environment, to take action as appropriate, to make recommendations to the President for consideration, and to discuss long-range plans designed to protect and enhance the quality of the campus environment. The appointed CSEQ Committee included the following members: Roger Maas, Executive Vice President and Provost; John Heckman, Associate Vice President of Facilities Planning and Operations; Brad Hoey VP for Marketing and Communications; Dain Gotto, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Laura Beamer, Faculty Member by Faculty Senate; Sgt. Dathan Jackson, NIU Public Safety; Ron Blomberg, NIU Parking Services; James Murphy, Campus Planning Coordinator, Architecture and Engineering Services; Chalermsee Olson, Associate Dean, College and Technical Services; Patricia Liberty-Baczek, Graduate Placement Officer; Graduate Teaching Assistant; Commander Joe Petragallo, DeKalb Police Department; Melissa Burlingame, SPS representative; Arielle Kalvelage, Senior Admissions Counselor; Melanie Costello, SPS Representative, Director of Lorado Taft Campus; Jeanie Clark Bremer, Graduate Student; Stuart Nissenbaum, Student Involvement & Leadership Development; Chair Dave Scharenberg, Associate Director, Environmental Health and Safety;

The following is a brief description of topics discussed at each meeting:

**FIRST MEETING**

The first meeting of the academic year was held on September 16, 2015. Mr. Scharenberg, Chair of the committee asked for an introduction from each committee member then discussed the official responsibilities of the committee.

The following topics were discussed:

- The NIU R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) program was discussed and several questions asked.
- Discussed the status of the Prairie restoration project that was brought to the committee in the spring of 2015 and the student involvement in the project.
- Much discussion about the committee's role in campus issues and concentrating on and prioritizing issues of security, environment and safety

**SECOND MEETING**

The second meeting was held on October 21, 2015. The following topics were discussed:

- Discussed the Prairie restoration project and that the committee is only looking for permission to proceed with investigation and that no funds are being requested
- Discussed the recent "threat" that occurred on campus and the successes and failure of the Mass Notification System and building Emergency Plans

- The idea of “Building Captains” was raised by Ms. Laura Beamer. The committee felt this was an idea worth pursuing
- Committee charter discussion, charter should remain “as-is”

### **THIRD MEETING**

The third meeting was held on November 18, 2015. The following topics were discussed:

- Discussion of the Mass Notification System and its current status thus answering concerns of several committee members. Also the availability of Emergency Action Plans in most rooms on campus and an app on smart phones
- Locking of buildings in off hours; whose responsibility
- Biking safety and the new bike lanes on campus sidewalks
- Discussion of a proposal to participate in the state wide tornado drill to be held on March 1, 2015. Also initial discussion about the importance of fire drills for each building on campus

### **FOURTH MEETING**

The fourth meeting was held on December 16, 2015. The following topics were discussed:

- The NIU R.A.D. program was discussed at length by Sgt. Smith, NIU PD
- Pedestrian safety along Newman Lane was discussed due to the lack of sidewalks. This is NIU property however installation of walks would be difficult due to the encroachment onto private property.
- Further discussion of the proposed tornado drill to be held March 1, 2015. Due to the short notice Mr. Maas will check with the Provost office for an opinion whether to proceed.
- NIU Emergency Action Plan app available on smartphones

### **FIFTH MEETING**

The fifth meeting was held on January 20, 2016. The following topics were discussed:

- Discussion again held on the March 1 tornado drill. Provost office decided not to pursue due to short notice and potential interruption of classes. EHS, NIU Weather and NIU Emergency Preparedness will collaborate with NIU Media Services with an informational campaign.
- The committee discussed the possibility of campus wide, building by building fire drills. The state adopts the NFPA fire code by reference which discussed mandatory fire drills.
- The committee discussed emergency issues on campus and Mr. Hoey pointed out the following link: <http://www.learn.niu.edu/niusafety/v2014/index.html>. This prompted a discussion of information dissemination through the committee and to campus entities. Mr. Heckman suggested that part of the role of the committee should be acting as a “sounding board” for improvements in safety related communications as the committee represents a good cross section of the campus and can provide valuable feedback.
- During this meeting issues of campus lighting, ADA accessibility, Hydration stations, Lactation stations and Smoking in cars was also discussed.

### **SIXTH MEETING**

The sixth meeting was held on February 17, 2016. The following topics were discussed:

- The committee discussed the “media blitz” that would take place for the Severe Weather Awareness Week starting March 1.
- The issue of “Building Captains” continues at the Administrative level.
- The committee discussed the NIU training module available on the Public Safety web site. Ms. Bremer went through the modules and commented on the effectiveness of the training and that she had forwarded it to members of her department. Mr. Scharenberg suggested that all committee members take a look at the site and advise their associated departments to do the same.
- Lactation Stations and Hydration Stations were again discussed.
- Mr. Scharenberg asked the question of how the committee would act as a “sounding board” for communications and various information sources that should be advertised and distributed to other campus entities. Much discussion followed. When information is brought before the committee that we feel should be disseminated the committee members will take thoughts and ideas generated back to their departments and work areas.
- It was moved to cancel the meeting in March due to the date coinciding with Spring break.

### **SEVENTH MEETING – no March meeting was held**

### **EIGHTH MEETING**

The eighth meeting was held on April 20, 2016. The following topics were discussed:

- Mr. Scharenberg announced that he will be stepping down as committee chair effective following the May committee meeting.
- Mr. Scharenberg a request that a new “push” be initiated by administrators, department heads and student organization in the fall semester that NIU is a Smoke Free campus. This request is due to the numbers of students and employees that openly violate this policy. Mr. Hoey said that during the summer and at the beginning of the fall semester there will be increased attention to this issue coming through campus media. Public Safety is also monitoring the current situation.
- Mr. Hoey expressed an appreciation for the communication that comes through this committee and the importance that it serves to the betterment of the campus.
- Mr. Gotto discussed the campus “Green Office” initiative being led by the Student Association.
- Discussion followed regarding taking pride in our University and the work we do to keep it functioning.
- Ms. Beamer discussed the “Readiness Task Force” being led by Mr. Dosier at the School of Nursing.

### **NINTH MEETING**

The ninth meeting was held on May 18, 2016. The following topics were discussed:

- Mr. Heckman commented on the status of the Building Captain issue. There is a meeting scheduled during June for a “training session” for the initial designees to discuss ideas and potential responsibilities. This program should be fully operational by the beginning of the fall semester.

- Mr. Scharenberg discussed the successes of the committee over that past few years which include but not limited to:
  - Building Captains
  - Emergency Action Plans (School of Nursing example)
  - Increased awareness of communication and dissemination of information by the committee
  - Weather Safety discussion and possible drills held on March 1<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with State wide K-12 severe weather drills
  - West Campus open spaces and native prairie opportunities.
- Mr. Gotto asked the question about preparation for the first meeting in the fall. Mr. Hoey suggested that committee members prepare for the fall meeting by thinking about things that have been brought to the table and are considered challenges. Mr. Heckman suggested issues that we may want to revisit such as:
  - Building locks
  - Crosswalk and traffic safety
  - Weather Safety drills
  - Fire drill
  - Taking these issues to the next level if already initiated

The CSEQ Committee will break over the summer months unless determined otherwise by committee members. The next meeting is scheduled for the third Wednesday in September (September 21, 2016).

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Scharenberg, Committee Chair.