




# SMU

*Office of the President*

October 26, 2016

TO: Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner

FROM: R. Gerald Turner, President 

RE: Faculty Senate Resolution on Campus Safety

SMU is fully committed to providing a safe environment for students, faculty and staff on our campus. As you note, no campus is crime free, or will ever be crime free and in this ever changing social environment, our responsibility to provide a safe campus grows more difficult each year. We work diligently each day to ensure we are doing all that is possible to create and maintain a campus where students, faculty and staff feel comfortable and safe. Much of this information was shared with the Faculty Senate recently when our Chief of Police, Chief Risk Officer and Information Security Officer presented to the Senate. Through information shared directly with the Senate, along with the information highlighted here, the Faculty Senate should fully understand all we do to provide a safe environment for the campus community.

- In early October, a Resilience and Crisis Management policy (3.12) was put in place to provide an overarching framework reinforcing the efforts of the campus to prepare for and respond to any emergency.
- The Incident Planning Committee (of which the Faculty Senate President is now a member) meets monthly to discuss emergency and security issues and to discuss best practices for addressing the issues. One recent example of the work of this committee would be the enhanced security procedures you now experience at the large venues on campus (football stadium and Moody for example) as well as the addition of bomb sniffing dogs at home football games. These are best practices that have been put in place to provide a safe and secure venue for events.
- Through our Office of Risk Management, we remain current on Federal, State and Local guidelines for emergency response and conduct regular exercises so those involved in responding are current in their knowledge and prepared to respond as necessary.

- We employ an effective mass notification system so that we can properly communicate with the campus should there be a need.
- Through our Police Department we have 30 officers (4 of which have been added in the last few years) and 8 dispatchers (2 of which have been added in the last few years) who protect the campus 24/7/365.
- Recently our Police vehicles were equipped with updated technology and all officers are now equipped with body cameras so that we can properly monitor events on campus.
- Each officer is provided with a rifle in addition to the pistols they carry and we also have officers who received special training and are part of the Crisis Response Team (CRT) which means they receive the same training as SWAT teams and carry special equipment.
- All security cameras in place are now on a single platform and monitored by SMU dispatch. We are currently performing an assessment to identify areas on campus where we might not have proper security camera coverage and then will work to address those areas.
- We are also in the final stages of implementing technology on all exterior doors on campus buildings to allow for an efficient and effective lockdown to be executed should that be necessary.
- Significant time has been spent visiting with faculty and staff to evaluate interior spaces they occupy and help formulate a response plan should an emergency occur.

Over the last 24 months, great investment has been made to improve the safety of the campus. All of these actions place SMU well above standards on other campuses.