

**HIGHLIGHTS OF EMORY UNIVERSITY SENATE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY
AND SECURITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2007-2008**

CHAIR: Virginia Plummer

MEMBERS:

Wendy Newby
Jana Anandarangam
Aline Jesus-Rafi
Donna Price
Cory Patrick
Eric Ossman
Darryl Neill
Kate Georgina Lyford
Julie Lefkowitz
Leigh Jacobsen
J. Franks
Deborah Floyd
Ting-Wei Chang
James Cain
Elizabeth Farrar
Elizabeth Jablonski-Diehl
Sarah Casavan
Rishav Kohli
Tara Tolbert
Cheryl Elliot
Mara Thomas

Re membership and guests:

Of these members, ten are students. One of our purposes is to include as many student voices as possible in raising issues and proposing creative solutions on campus. Our students have been extraordinarily active both as Committee members as well as campus leaders this year.

We have also invited a large number of guests to attend our Committee meetings this year. They have brought reports and insights that have been helpful in furthering some of our projects and plans for the year.

Re overall mission of Committee:

Our mission has been to support campus safety and security measures for students, including, but not limited to, anything that will support students making low-risk choices around alcohol use, becoming aware and supportive of sexual assault prevention issues, and supporting student-led initiatives in any area of campus safety and security.

Re meeting locations, participation, and number of meetings:

We have met three times a semester, for a total of six meetings this year. Most of our meetings have been held in the Conference Room of the Center for Women, thus introducing a broad spectrum of attendees to the location of this important Center on campus. Our meetings have been well-attended and have generated a great deal of participatory energy and action. Much work has gone on between meetings, as well, in supporting and carrying out initiatives and dissemination of educational materials.

Re highlights of information-gathering, action items, reports, and support of student-led initiatives:

As recommended by John Ford, Vice President of Campus Life, the Committee took on the year-long task of collecting and disseminating information about campus alcohol and other drug resources and educational material. Members were given packets of educational brochures and other materials for their own benefit, as well as given posters, student-generated fliers, and brochures to pass out across campus. We also researched mental health/substance abuse resource websites available for students and shared lists of existing counseling resources available at Emory.

Several student-led initiatives re safety and security issues on campus were discussed and supported by the Committee. These included successful initiation of expanded Safe Ride Shuttle services, a self-defense class, and procurement of an additional campus security light, all actions processed and completed by the College Council in collaboration with the USCSS Committee, as well as with Emory Police Department, Transportation Services, Campus Administration, Emory University Student Health and Counseling Services, and other key departments and individuals on campus.

Yet another student-led initiative discussed and supported by our Committee was that of Sorority and Fraternity Life's request for appropriate Master Keys for their buildings, providing access to help students in medical distress locked in their rooms. USCSS gave support to the ISC and IFC presidents and College Council in requesting this important safety measure, and the ultimate solution is being discussed and processed by Residence Life and other involved departments.

Members of Kappa Sigma were invited to attend a Committee meeting and report their plans to train for and teach sexual assault prevention models to fellow fraternities and incoming freshmen. One Kappa Sigma brother joined the Committee in order to better facilitate communication about their project between KS and the Committee. Several Kappa Sigma men attended the College Sexual Assault Prevention Symposium in April; Aline Jesus-Rafi, Emory Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator, wrote a special letter of recognition for Kappa Sigma's proactive involvement in this important campus safety issue. Aline also reported on Sexual Assault Awareness week programs held successfully on campus in April.

Another fraternity member of the Committee reported on several initiatives Sorority and Fraternity Life have implemented this year to improve safety around alcohol issues in fraternities. These include a bigger presence of House Directors in the fraternity houses, tougher sanctions being levied by the Judicial Board for alcohol and other drug problem behavior, and the ongoing implementation of sober driver plans. A Health Education and Promotion intern was invited by this Committee member to speak at an ISC/IFC Executive Meeting about the dangers of mixing alcohol and cocaine, and to distribute fliers she had created to put up about campus.

School of Law representatives on the Committee addressed issues and dangers around keg parties on the lawn of the School on afternoons when students often drive home after drinking. It was suggested that they request the School to look into liability issues around this practice. They also supported the successful election of a School of Law Student Bar Association President who is concerned about alcohol issues and advocates making positive changes.

Our Director of First Responder Services and a guest First Responder reported on statistics around percentage of cases that are alcohol-related (c. 15-20%), and on specialized training initiatives for First Responders. These trainings teach the EMT students how to respond to alcohol concerns on site that may require counseling referrals, providing initial interventions in these cases. The Committee is supportive of this specialized training, as well as of the ongoing service that campus EMT's provide students on an ongoing basis.

An important student-led initiative for Orientation during August 2008 was brought to the Committee's attention for support by the College Council president-elect (and USCSS Committee member) and the ISC president: an alcohol-free Welcome Back Party for new students and upperclassmen. The Committee was in full support of this party, which continues to take shape and will involve a collaboration between many student and Campus Life organizations and departments. It is scheduled for August 29, 2008, and Committee members will be involved in helping to organize and produce the party. It will be an opportunity for incoming freshmen to interact with upperclassmen in an alcohol-free environment and to demonstrate responsible partying behavior.

It has been an extraordinarily busy and productive year for the University Senate Committee on Safety and Security (USCSS), an opportunity to build collaborative relationships with a broad range of Emory University and student-led organizations, and to provide a venue in which initiatives supporting safe behaviors and environments have found a welcoming, supportive place to grow and produce effective implementation. We look forward to continuing and expanding our mission in the next two years on campus.

