

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023 FREE SPEECH & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Slife Ballroom, Commons  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Committee Members**

Greta Rouse (Chair)

Abby Crow (Vice Chair)

Robert Cramer

---

**Chair Rouse called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.**

**1. Approval of minutes of the September 27, 2023 Free Speech Committee**

Approved by general consent.

**2. Clery Act Reports (Bullock, Haire, Newton)**

The three university heads of campus safety and security presented the annual Clery Act reports to the Board, discussed trends in campus safety, and responded to questions from the Board.

Haire: Not a lot of significant changes since last year. Some of our numbers went down. Some increases in drug incidents but we think this is due to some drugs being legal in other states and not being careful. Revamped our active shooter program to update and shorten it. Revamped the safety app for our campus and it has been very popular. We are now fully staffed and we work hard to retain all our employees. We actively engage with our students and work with housing.

Newton: We work daily to ensure our community is prepared and ready. One of those ways is to submit our statistics through the Clery Report. Sexual assaults are down. While it is an underreported crime, we are getting feedback that our alerts are more timely. Over the last years we have had several successful prosecutions of crimes on our campus. Burglaries are down, but that is partly because we had a single individual who burgled our classrooms last year and he was caught. Motor vehicle thefts are down, but most of the thefts are due to folks leaving their keys in the car. Liquor law cases are up and there are many factors like home football games, warm weather. Weapons cases are up dramatically. We see a number of people from the metro area bringing guns and drugs, but we stepped up and we have been addressing that issue. We now put out monthly statistics and we just added a daily dashboard with past trends. Our public safety team has been helping with self-defense, mental health, active shooter, and other training. Leveraging technology. Instead of spending millions on new blue lights on campus, we have expanded our safety app which has been very popular. Student advisory board does great work and help us address concerns. We also meet weekly with our student newspaper and student government.

Bullock: A few years ago, we were empowered by an internal audit that helped us revamp a number of programs on our campus. Last year we were the Clery reporter of the year. In 2021 we had upticks in many of our areas, however, this past year everything was significantly down.

We have returned to our pre-COVID numbers. Sexual assaults are down, but the trend remains the same with most happening among acquaintances and in the residence halls. Aggravated assaults are down but we continue to see a trend of most (76% last year) occurring at the hospital. We are increasing our staffing there to help support staff. Motor vehicle thefts continue to rise in the form of eBikes. Of the 15 thefts, nine were eBikes. Of the remaining six thefts, four were unfounded reports due to miscommunication between roommates or siblings.

We have some challenges with adjacent campus crimes. We have a very open campus and have no tracking of cars coming in and out of campus. However, we now have 20 license plate readers to help us track crimes on campus. We also have issues with stalking or sextortion that are reported. If there are more than two messages, it must be reported as a crime. Threat assessment team was restructured under campus safety so known threats wouldn't fall through any cracks. We meet weekly for an hour across nine departments and it has been very successful. Opened a new public-facing storefront at the local mall. Over the last few years, we have been intentional about meeting with students, and they consistently report three issues: lighting on campus, night ride, and alerts. We now have a full-time staff to manage the night ride program using profits from alcohol sales at our games. We also appreciate that we currently have the student Regent, and she has been very helpful. She helped start a student organization sponsor of night ride. They raise money for their organization, and we get drivers for night ride.

Crow: Thank you for the work you do, particularly with the student groups on campus. Two questions. One related to the hospital, one related to cameras. Are there any units in the hospital that see more activity?

Bullock: Yes, locked units and the emergency room are the two areas where we see the most activity.

Crow: I have heard from students about increasing cameras on campus. Can you talk about that?

Newton: Yes, there is a balance between privacy and cost when it comes to providing more cameras. We do need more cameras and our students want more cameras and are driving the demand. There is ebb and flow, but this years, students want more cameras in the residence halls.

Haire: Same at UNI. It's about trying to provide the best coverage and we do provide some in the residence halls. It's a balance of privacy and security, but cameras have been instrumental in helping us solve crimes.

Bullock: Generally, campus security folks say the more cameras the better, but you must be very thoughtful on how you use them. It's important to make sure cameras all feed into the same system and are not siloed. We have two systems: campus dispatch center and the health care campus. They are critical in supporting most of our crimes.

Barker: My main takeaway is the benefits of active policing. Policing works and helps to make our students safe. I also want to thank you for helping to ensure free speech on campus. The security that you provide has allowed those speeches to take place.

Lindemayer: Thank you. We often forget that each campus is a medium sized city. We really appreciate what you do to keep us safe.

Bullock: I did forget something. We also have an office of Clery compliance that helps our efforts.

Rouse: Are there still wait times for Night Ride?

Chiefs: There are some waits, but there are apps to let people know. There are also \$1 rush services as needed. We have the vehicles; we just need student engagement. The apps really improve the service now that we have integrated them into our safe ride. It is getting harder to get students to help drive, particularly at night.

Dunkel: We really want to thank you for all your work. We receive calls from parents all the time and we appreciate what you do to keep the campuses safe.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.**