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# Campus Security in an Era of Heightened Risk

Kathleen Comerford  
*Georgia Southern University*

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# Campus Security in an Era of Heightened Risk.

Submitted by: Kathleen Comerford

3/5/2012

## Question:

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How will existing police and other security procedures, emergency response plans, and Eagle Alert operations be altered to account for the presence of more guns on campus once the on-campus Elite Shooting Facility opens? What will be the method of communicating those plans and procedures to students, faculty, and staff?

## Rationale:

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The construction of the Elite Shooting Facility on GSU's campus will increase the presence of firearms on the GSU campus and its immediate environs. At the Information sessions conducted by the Office of Student Affairs in December 2011, the Head of Campus Safety pointed out that it is impossible to discern right now how many guns are on campus, but stated that he was certain that many within the campus community do transport their weapons on to campus--and that in his experience, some of those with weapons do not understand how to use them properly. Once the Elite Shooting Facility is built, a building on the edge of the campus will house weapons, and people who use the Facility will be allowed to bring their own guns. This increase in guns on campus may heighten the risk of a tragic shooting event like those at the University of Arizona (2002), Delaware State University (2007), Virginia Tech (2007), Northern Illinois University (2008), and Louisiana Technical College (2008). The advocacy group Students for Concealed Carry (<http://concealedcampus.org/campus-crime/>) even lists ways in which on-campus gun violence is the result of self-defense during robberies or break-ins: at Virginia

Commonwealth University (2005—resulting in the death of a gang member after a "confrontation outside a coin laundry business"), Mercer University School of Law (2005—resulting in the death of a man who broke into a student's house), the University of Kentucky (2005), South Florida Community College (2006), the University of Arizona (2008), and the University of Michigan (2008—resulting in the death of two "intruders"). The campus needs a clear, publicly available plan articulating what students, faculty, and staff should do to minimize risk in the event of a shooting on campus, both in residential areas and academic space. This request is submitted by: Kathleen Comerford Richard Flynn Michelle Haberland Michael Moore Sandra Peacock

How will existing police and other security procedures, emergency response plans, and Eagle Alert operations be altered to account for the presence of more guns on campus once the on-campus Elite Shooting Facility opens? What will be the method of communicating those plans and procedures to students, faculty, and staff?

## **Response:**

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The Senate Executive Committee declined this request. The SEC refers members of the administration, faculty, staff, and student body to the following items. In them, members of the administration and/or the Office of Public Safety present information about policies and procedures:

1. Michelle Haberland's Request for Discussion prior to the Faculty Senate meeting of October 24, 2011. In the attachment, Vice President Teresa Thompson responded to the seven questions posed by Professor Haberland. At least three of the questions/responses are related to safety.
2. Pages 11-14 of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of October 14, 2011.
3. Sandra Peacock's Request for Information prior to the Faculty Senate meeting of November 16, 2011. Vice President Thompson responded to Professor Peacock's two questions.
4. Pages 12-16 of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of November 16, 2011.
5. Your notes about information presented at related fora during December 2011.

Minutes: 3/9/2012: Krug then noted what items were upcoming on the meeting agenda. She also noted that a Request for Information from Kathleen Comerford re: Campus

Security in an Era of Heightened Risk was declined as “Asked and Answered” at Fall Senate meetings and the December forums.