

Contact: Jason Pontius

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2024 FREE SPEECH & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE****Maucker Union, Ballroom A & B  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa****Committee Members**

Greta Rouse (Chair)

Jim Lindenmayer

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**Chair Rouse called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.****1. Approval of minutes of the September 18, 2024 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: Incidents on campus are holding pretty steady with an uptick in drug related crime. These involve a consolidation of reports from our different campus entities.

- We continue to hold training in active shooter training (12 classes).
- We are training two new instructors.
- Just added two new bicycle officers
- All officers go through mental health crisis intervention
- We also conduct a lot of alcohol and drug training with resident assistants in housing
- Work with advancement folks and stay current on training.

Regent Barker: Can you tell me more about one upward trend I see with drug arrests?

Haire: The increase is not due to a step up in patrols, just an increase in incidents. Several of those arrests come from traffic stops and they are not necessarily students or UNI affiliated personnel. Many of our drug arrests involve marijuana and students sometimes forget that it's not legal in Iowa.

Regent Lindenmayer: Who does your mental health training?

Haire: It's through the state. It's the same that all officers in the state go through. One recent training session that our officers used covered working with people with autism.

Newton: Looking at the trends for Iowa State in 2023:

- We recently added key management to our portfolio to help ensure that we are keeping buildings secure on campus.

- Sexual assault and harassment have been trending down, in part due to increased training, but we always have more work to do.
- A national trend that we are also seeing on our campus is a rise in stalking cases. Clery stalking definitions are different from Iowa state law and some incidents that are recorded in Clery are not state law violations. Most people stop after we tell them to knock it off.
- It looks like we have had an increase in violent crimes, but there were only three cases so any increase looks high relative to the overall statistics. One was an alcohol-related tailgate fight and two were cases of domestic violence.
- Weapons cases have gone down from previous years. We teamed up with Ames PD and feel that collaboration has been successful.
- Theft cases are generally crimes of opportunity, mostly involving break-ins for vehicles.
- Liquor law violations trend with weather and the success of the athletic teams. We have seen a lot fewer parties. Drug arrests have been steady and follow the same trend as those found at UNI
- We also had a series of arsons in State Gym and some residence halls, but those multiple incidents were the work of one individual who was caught.
- ISU trains its officers above the state standards and our community outreach efforts have been going so well that we plan to expand our 343 outreach events that have involved 48,000 community members.
- We also recently launched a series of public dashboard that include monthly reports and real time uploads of our calls for services and traffic stops.
- We are also participating in a 30 by 30 initiative that is trying to encourage more women to enter law enforcement. Nationally, 12% of officers are women.

Regent Dunkel: With drug cases are you seeing mostly marijuana?

Newton: With students we see marijuana, but with some outside groups we see some heroin, cocaine, and meth.

Regent Barker: Do you have enough space?

Newton: We are working with administrators to find more space on campus.

Regent Rouse: Has technology changed your cases of stalking?

Newton: Yes, some stalking is done electronically. Some stalking cases are simply due to people not knowing how to talk to each other.

Bullock: In talking about the Clery Act report for the University of Iowa, I want to point out that Clery ignores some of the issues that make each campus unique (for example, a campus with a major hospital). Some of the issues that we are dealing with include:

- The single biggest issue is sex offenses. We had 51 incidences of sex offenses last year, up from 13 the year before. Many of those incidents were due to an employee in health services so most of this increase was driven by one person. In fact if you take those out, our numbers are actually declining.
- Vehicle thefts, which include electric scooters and electric bikes, are up. We also had double-digit arrests using our license plate reader system.
- Dating violence at first glance is also up from eight to 18 incidents in one year. However, eight of those incidents were reported as part of a single case. Those 18 incidents can be represented by five specific cases.

- We are also seeing a trend in sextortion and we continue to provide training and education on that topic.
- We had 45 cases of stalking on campus and 32 of those happened at our hospitals. Our healthcare center brings in people from all over the state and sometimes they bring their issues with them.
- Additionally, 70-75% of our aggravated assaults happen at the hospital. There were 34 in 2022 and 20 in 2023. We have a fully staffed police unit at UIHC and we believe that it has helped.
- Campus Safety Realignment. We are working to centralize and coordinate disparate reports on campus. We have a group that meets every Tuesday morning and review all the reports and flag student IDs .
- We offer late night transportation as part of a student government Uber initiative. Every student can claim two Uber vouchers for reduced price rides during late night hours.
- We have also added new safety detectors at games that don't impede the flow of spectators entering the game.

Regent Barker: How has the addition of alcohol at Kinnick been working?

Bullock: The number of alcohol incidents has decreased since adding alcohol sales. We are seeing a reduction in the number of intoxicated people entering the stadium.

Regent Risewick: How does the new weapons detection system at Kinnick work?

Bullock: Its simply a red/green light that will flash if it finds something. That will then result in a pat down as a secondary check.

### **3. UNI Recreation Services Presentation**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.**