

# Security Forum

Wednesday March 20, 2019

Number of students present - 30

Panel Members- Rochel Furniss, Tracy Waal, Ben Cook, Lorna Hagner

*The MVNU Campus Safety department takes the safety and security of students very seriously. It has been brought to the attention of the school that students have concerns for their safety. In order to address these concerns and understand both sides, a security forum was created. Below are the concerns addressed.*

## **What does Campus Safety currently consist of?**

Campus Safety has four full-time safety officers and six part-time officers. There are three eight-hour shifts each day (midnight-8:00 am and 8:00 am-4:00 pm and 4:00 pm-midnight.) For each shift there is double coverage, which means there will always be a Campus Safety Officer to patrol around campus 24/7 and it gives room for one officer if needed to take a lunch break or file reports. Recently, two safety officers left because they accepted jobs elsewhere. Interviews for new officers are being conducted where extensive background checks and a statement of faith are required from applicants.

## **How trained is Campus Safety?**

Each Campus Safety Officer has completed in-house training through the MVPD. They are trained to stop bleeding from lacerations and to use defibrillators. They are certified in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR.) Thankfully, there has never been a need to use either for a student on campus.

Campus Safety does not carry a gun or tasers because the liability levels for this issue are very high. There are talks about carrying pepper spray or tasers, however they are not ready to make that step yet. Dr.Spaulding and the Vice Presidents make the ultimate decision. Many things have to be taken into consideration such as the issue of cost in training and arming security officers.

## **What authority do Campus Safety Officers have?**

Campus Safety Officers have the authority to ask persons for identification and to determine whether individuals have lawful business at MVNU. They also have the authority to issue parking citations, which are billed to financial accounts of students, faculty, and staff. Safety Officers do not possess arrest authority.

## **What Security Procedures are in place to protect students in the Chapel?**

There is a campus safety officer that locks all exterior doors currently during chapel hour. In the past there has been an undercover police officer in the Chapel during chapel hour.

### **Have budget cuts affected Campus Safety?**

It has been confirmed with the VP of Finance that there has been **no cuts** to the Campus Safety budget.

### **What is the MVPD involvement on campus?**

There is a close relationship with Campus Safety and the police. They frequently drive through campus. In the case of an emergency, the response time of the MVPD (worst case scenario) is 4 minutes. There was a situation where there was a stolen vehicle on campus, and the MVPD were on the scene within 2 minutes.

Since MVNU is private property, it is necessary for MVNU to provide its own Campus Safety staff rather than having MVPD on campus 24/7. Currently, there is one police officer that patrols Mount Vernon Career Center, High School, and Middle School. Unfortunately, cost is an issue and there is not enough officers to have one on campus 24/7.

### **What training is there for others in an event of an emergency situation?**

Active Shooter- Faculty participated in active shooting training last year.

Self-Defense- Take back the night is an event for students to participate in self-defense training. Students are encouraged to seek training themselves.

Emergency Situation-Currently the first step is to call 911. The Campus Security Department is working with MVPD to make a concrete protocol to share with faculty and students.

### **Are CCW's allowed on Campus?**

No. A law has been passed to leave it up to universities to make their own decision to allow CCW's or not. MVNU has decided CCW's are not allowed on campus.

### **What alert systems can be used in the event of an emergency?**

*Currently*

Nixel- Warnings are issued through the university emergency alert notification system to students, faculty, and staff. The emergency alert notification system includes text message or campus-wide email.

*Potential*

Alertus App- Mobile phone technology seems to be the better route for emergency situations. Campus safety is working with IT on Alertus App that would serve a similar purpose. There would be an emergency button on this app that would alert campus safety and other staff of your location. This service should be available by next year.

Emergency phones/buttons on campus- Research was done and it was concluded that this is not the most effective technology.

### **Specific Student Concerns**

586- Students walk back to dorms very late at night after working at the 586 and feel unsafe. They usually drive themselves to and from the 586, but typically all the parking spots are filled by the time their shift is over. More times than not, they have to park in the Chapel parking lot and walk all the way back to their dorms. Manager Lindsay Sidle will be meeting with the Security team to discuss a solution.

### **Student Ideas**

- Meet and Greet with Security Staff
- Use the Criminal Justice students to work as safety personnel (Have to be at least 21 years old and approved through HR)
- ID badging for other buildings besides resident halls and downtown
- Double-doored buildings equipped with a button that can lock the outer set of doors in case of an emergency and will automatically call campus safety

### **Other Student Concerns**

A student shared a story where they were being followed by a vehicle as they left MVNU campus. The vehicle continued to follow them around Mount Vernon. The student drove to MVPD and was told by an officer to talk to Campus Safety at MVNU about this issue. MVPD should have dealt with this problem since it continued off campus.

*Thank you for all who participated in the forum or submitted responses via email or social media. If you have any further safety concerns please email Esther Hart at [esthart@mail.mvnu.edu](mailto:esthart@mail.mvnu.edu) or submit comments at the bottom of the SGA website <https://www.mvnusga.com>.*