

The University of North Carolina's 17 campuses host more than 220,000 students, 50,000 faculty and staff, and countless visitors. The safety and well-being of those communities is critical to our educational mission. UNC President Tom Ross launched the Campus Security Initiative with a straightforward charge: review campus safety efforts to find out where and how we can improve.

Safety and well-being have long been top priorities. This initiative is a major step in a continuous effort.

This isn't UNC's first system review of campus safety, and it won't be the last. But it is an especially comprehensive look at one of our most important responsibilities.

UNC campuses are already safe. But we aren't complacent; there's more work to be done.

The crime rate on every UNC campus is well below the statewide rate. But there is still much room for improvement, and we want to be proactive.

Our 17 campuses are open and accessible. They must remain that way.

Openness is a key virtue of our public institutions, and a requirement for the kind of engaged, service-oriented university we have always been. That poses a challenge for security, but a necessary one.

The Campus Security Initiative undertook a systemwide, comprehensive analysis of safety efforts.

We didn't focus on a particular area or subset of campus safety. This initiative was designed as a big-picture review of what our campuses are already doing, what the law requires of us, and how we can work together to do more.

We sought expertise at all levels — from policymakers to police officers.

The Initiative involved people from every UNC campus — police officers, student affairs staff, counseling and health professionals, attorneys, faculty, administrators, and students — who understand and work with the issues involved in campus security and safety. We wanted real, on-the-ground experience, and we got it.

We explored some of the most pressing, high-profile issues confronting all colleges and universities.

- ▶ Sexual violence;
- ▶ Alcohol and substance abuse;
- ▶ State and federal regulation of campus safety;
- ▶ Crime reporting;
- ▶ Effective and fair disciplinary proceedings; and
- ▶ Institutional risk management.

We looked for best practices — what works, what doesn't, and how do we know?

Initiative members surveyed the field of campus safety, looking for evidence-based approaches that can be adopted or adapted by our campuses. The best ideas are identified and recommended in the report.

We looked for ways to collaborate and share resources across campuses.

Each of our campus communities is distinct, but there's a great deal they can learn from one another. And in an era of tight budgets, sharing and leveraging resources is essential.

We identified areas where more is needed — personnel, policy, and equipment.

Simple prudence — as well as federal and state regulations — suggests the need for further investment in campus safety. We have identified important areas that merit further attention and discussion from campus officials and system-level policymakers.

In the end, we came up with a comprehensive plan to address campus safety, one unique in its scope and its aim for collaboration across campuses.

This initiative offers a practical blueprint to help guide safety efforts on our campuses. In its broad approach to questions of security and well-being, as well as its call for systemwide sharing of expertise and resources, it may also provide a model for university systems across the country.

The Campus Security Initiative commits the University system to a number of critical goals.

Among the most significant:

- ▶ Doing more to prevent sexual violence and ensure clear, trauma-informed responses, including prompt and fair student disciplinary proceedings.
- ▶ Securing the resources and personnel needed to prepare for major threats ranging from natural disasters to criminal incidents.
- ▶ Taking concrete steps to change the culture of alcohol abuse that harms our students, undermines our educational mission, and puts our campus communities at risk.

