

TO: COEDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE  
FROM: SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE  
DATE: JUNE 20, 1985

The subcommittee met to consider whether changes should be made to the campus security system in preparation for the arrival of women undergraduate students. Most of the study and planning on this subject has already been presented to the Steering Committee by Proctor Charles F. Murray and his assistant, William C. Datz, in their detailed report entitled "The Current Status of Security at Washington and Lee and Recommended Changes Under Coeducation." A copy of that report is annexed hereto. The subcommittee is greatly indebted to Mr. Murray and Mr. Datz, who bore the brunt of planning for security under coeducation.

The subcommittee reviewed and discussed the changes recommended by Mr. Murray and Mr. Datz. In addition, the subcommittee discussed means by which University departments other than the Proctor's Office could improve student safety generally, and the safety of our women students in particular. Our recommendations are set forth below.

I. Changes to the Physical Plant.

*yes*  
A. Lighting. Section IV of the Proctor's report contains a detailed study of the status of exterior lighting on campus. At the time the report was prepared the lighting was not adequate for the protection of persons on campus after dark. The recommendations of the Proctor's Office for increased lighting are currently being implemented. The subcommittee believes that the new lights, when installed, will be adequate for safety.

*maybe*  
B. Outdoor Emergency Telephones. Emergency telephones connected to campus security are common on college campus. They can be used to summon help when a student feels threatened or has been attacked. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of placing such phones throughout the campus. We do not currently see a need for them in the busy central part of the campus. However, we do believe they should be installed in the outlying areas, for example at the pavillion, at the back of the library and at DuPont Hall. (See Proctor's Report at 4). If a need for additional phones is discovered, they can be installed at a later date.

*OK*  
C. The Dormitories. The subcommittee briefly discussed the design of the dormitories. We agreed that guards for the dormitories were not feasible or necessary. However, we believe it would be prudent to avoid housing women in ground floor rooms, particularly those rooms on the street side of the buildings. Finally, we discussed locking the main dormitory entrances. On this issue the subcommittee was divided. Some members believed students would

No  
No

defeat the system by propping open doors. The possibility that security personnel would be distracted from their regular duties by locked-out students was also discussed. Finally, some members of the subcommittee felt that locked dormitories were inconsistent with the spirit of Washington and Lee. The majority of the subcommittee, however, favored locking the dormitories during the late night hours to prevent attacks by intruders and to increase the student's feeling of safety. We felt that by locking the doors only late at night (from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., for example) the danger of student defeat and the negative effect on student freedom would be minimized. Suggestions for avoiding the burden on security personnel included: (a) requiring students being punished for a minor offense to serve as door openers whose phone number would be posted outside the dorm and (b) charging students a lockout fee if they call security to be admitted to their rooms.

## II. Personnel and Equipment Changes

yes

A. Communications. The subcommittee agrees wholeheartedly with the opinion of the Proctor's Report that fast, reliable communications are essential to campus security. (See Part I of the Proctor's Report). Our security system depends upon the availability of prompt communication between the University community and our security force at all times. It is our view that the security communications system does not currently meet this standard and that it must be improved.

The problem with our communications system is that night security calls are routed through the heating plant. Because of their other duties, heating plant personnel are away from the security phones and walkie-talkies up to 40% of the night time hours. In the subcommittee's view, this gap in our communications system is unacceptable. A second problem with our communications system is the difficulty experienced by security personnel in the field who often cannot communicate directly because their walkie-talkies lack sufficient power. Changes in staffing and equipment are required to remedy the problems with our communications system.

Other solutions in the works

With respect to staffing, the Proctor's report recommended hiring dispatchers for the evening and night time hours -- students during the term and temporary workers during the summer. The subcommittee discussed this recommendation. We also discussed a less costly alternative. The alternative would be to use the person who staffs the main library desk as our security dispatcher. This person is not required by other duties to leave his post and may be able to handle the dispatch work. We understand that the head librarian is agreeable to this suggestion. The subcommittee recommends using the library desk staffer as a security dispatcher for evening and night hours, with the following reservations. First, our phone system must be programmed so that calls to security will go immediately to the library dispatcher. Second, the dispatcher must receive training from security to handle the incoming calls efficiently. Third, if the library dispatcher is found to be unable to handle security calls due to other duties, the University should hire persons whose sole job would be security dispatch.

yes  
As mentioned above, new equipment is also needed to improve our security system. The equipment is described in the Proctor's Report (at 2). We have learned that the equipment suggested will cost approximately \$5000. We recommend its purchase.

yes  
B. Identification. Security personnel and their vehicles should be readily identifiable by students. We endorse the suggestion in the Proctor's Report, now being implemented, that badges and decals be used for this purpose.

yes  
C. The Proctor's Report (at 2-3) recommends the permanent staffing of qualified female security personnel to deal with security in women's locker rooms and dormitory areas. The subcommittee discussed this recommendation. It is our view that, with the exception of a possible dispatcher, increases in the size of the security staff are not needed at this time. We are of the view that qualified women can and should be hired as security personnel when and if vacancies arise. (In fact, a vacancy arose recently and a woman was hired for the position). However, it was our view that both men and women security personnel can and should handle security problems in all parts of campus. We do recognize that a woman security officer might be particularly well suited to handle sexual assault complaints. However, we recommend that all security personnel receive training to handle sexual assault problems. The Proctor's Office has already begun to consider this need and we urge the University to provide full support for such training.

### III. Student Education and Training

yes  
The subcommittee believes that students should be alerted to security issues and taught to avoid threats to their personal safety. In our view, appropriate education and training concerning security are entirely consistent with our strong Honor Code. Moreover, we believe security training can and should be accomplished without frightening students or their parents. The University administration should play an active role in this part of our security system. The subcommittee has the following recommendations. (We recognize that some of our suggestions may reflect existing practice.)

yes  
A. Wallet-sized cards should be distributed to each member on the University community. These cards (which could be combined with current identification cards) should contain the phone number of campus security, the location of campus emergency phones and other critical safety information.

B. Orientation should include a full discussion of security issues. The role of campus security should be described to students. The Proctor's Office should be relied upon for professional assistance in planning this part of orientation. We endorse current plans to include security personnel in orientation. The subcommittee has extensive literature on student safety education which can be used in planning orientation. A specific topic which should be covered with all students is the need to ensure that

students, particularly women students, are not required to walk alone at night. A second topic which should be covered is the University prohibition of "major offenses", in particular "sexual assault, including unwanted sexual touching."

?  
Yes

C. Student dormitory counsellors should receive training in security matters as part of their training.

Maybe  
w/caution

D. Women students should receive training on prevention of sexual assault and on how to respond to sexual assault if it occurs. This training should include discussion of assaults by acquaintances. The subcommittee also suggests that the Athletic Department consider offering a course in self-defense for women.

Yes -  
use of  
R-t-P.

E. The subcommittee discussed the security of off campus students, including fraternities, at some length. Responsibility for the investigation of crimes committed off campus lies with the City and County Police. Nevertheless, we believe that the University should continue to educate off campus students on security issues. Students should be urged to take responsibility for seeing that their guests, particularly women guests, are escorted safely home. Students should also be reminded of the need for self-protection, e.g., locking doors, securing houses during vacations, etc. Cautions concerning the dangers of storing firearms in the home should also be given. The subcommittee recognizes that education of upperclass students is difficult because no ready forum exists. However, we believe that the IFC could assist with discussions of security at the fraternities. In the future, we anticipate that a women's student group will be formed that could help educate upper-class women students.

IV. Escort Service

Yes,  
agree

The subcommittee discussed the possibility of forming an escort service to transport women students around campus at night. Those members who had experience with such services at much larger schools indicated that they were little used except at times of crisis. The subcommittee believes that informal student cooperation, together with education, will be adequate to protect our women students here. However, if women students find that an escort service is needed, we hope that students will organize such a service.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Datz  
David DeHoll  
Nancy Margand  
Shayam Menon  
Charles F. Murray  
Susan Palmer, Chair  
Townes Pressler  
Joan M. Shaughnessy

## Minutes

The Coeducation Steering Committee met October 15 at 4:00 in the Commerce School Faculty Lounge. Pam Simpson introduced the new members, Anece McCloud, Valerie Pierson and John Roach. Anne Schroer was unable to attend.

The Committee discussed its agenda for the year. The following items were noted:

- Rush. There was expressed a need to evaluate student opinion as to how it went. Lee Hollis' subcommittee will take this up.
- Orientation. Bob Huntley felt that things were well in hand and that the committee did not need to be concerned with this.
- Dorms. Bob Huntley reported briefly on the few problems that had developed, especially overcrowding, laundry and bathrooms being used by visitors.
- Frats. Jean Dunbar suggested that we write to the IFC and the Frat Presidents complimenting them on their efforts to include women students in Rush.
- Athletics. Bill McHenry and Cinda Rankin reported on the NCAA ruling requiring four women's sports and our efforts to meet this. They have enough for cross country, swimming and tennis but need one more sport. Golf may be the likely one but more women have to be recruited. They have been disappointed in the turnout for intramurals but feel that P. E. is going splendidly.
  - Of the 28 students who failed the swimming test, 13 were women.
  - Women have taken up positions as managers and statisticians with the varsity teams.
  - Fencing could be upgraded to a varsity sport.
- Health and Counseling. Nancy and Jean will continue to monitor the situation.
- Sexual Harrassment. The pamphlet is on hold until the President approves the final language of the statement.
- Sororities. Valerie and John brought to our attention the misconception that freshmen have that we have banned sororities from forming for two years.

The Committee discussed the need to communicate directly with the freshmen and decided that hall meetings in the dorms might be helpful.

The next meeting will be October 22 at 3:45. The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Pamela H. Simpson