

Campus Safety Advisory Committee Annual Report – Academic Year 2024-2025

Meeting Dates: 11/21/2024, 2/07/2025, 3/07/2025 and 4/18/2025

Committee Members:

Chief Daniel Daugherty
Coryn Voels
Debbie Nilsen
Dr. Jill Silverman
Dr. Brian Kelly
Justina Geremia
Dr. Deanna Devlin
Ashley Granger - student
Katherine Romano – student
Rocco Law – student

Guest Presenters:

Frank Rampello, Kelsey Russell, Lukas Miedreich, William Finnegan, Kimberly Liao, Ryan Kleinkopf, Juliet Jordan (student), Katelyn Attison (student), Timothy McDermott, and Mark Orlich.

Introduction

This year's Campus Safety Advisory Committee dealt with two significant safety issues for the FSC community. The first was overseeing the implementation and placement of "One Box Emergency Opioid Overdose Kits" around campus. The other was addressing several concerns that were brought to President Prezant by the Disability Coalition Club.

One Box Emergency Opioid Overdose Kits

At the committee's second meeting on February 7, 2025, Frank Rampello, Will Finnegan, Kimberly Liao and Lukas Miedreich provided an overview of the "One Box Emergency Opioid Overdose Kit". These kits contain Naloxone which, when administered to an individual having an opioid overdose, reverses the drug's deadly effects and saves lives. When the box is open, a video is played on the inside cover that instructs the rescuer on how to safely administer Naloxone to an individual suffering from an opioid overdose. The Campus Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) unanimously endorsed this important safety tool.

20 of these kits have subsequently been purchased by FSC Student Government and have been installed next to an existing Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at all of the "high traffic" areas on campus. The kits were installed specifically in Dewey Hall, Orchard Hall, Alumni Hall, Campus Center, Quintyne Hall, Knapp Hall, Greenley Library, Laffin Hall, Nold Athletic Complex, Lupton Hall, Hale Hall, School of Business, Gleeson Hall and Whitman Hall. Building managers and UPD SSAs have been tasked with checking the boxes periodically to ensure that they have not been opened inappropriately. Should the Naloxone be used, or as its expiring, the Health and Wellness Center is responsible for replacing the Naloxone.

Disability Coalition Club Concerns

During the second meeting of the CSAC, Kelsey Russell, the director of the Disability Services Center, brought forth issues and concerns that were conveyed to Dr. Prezant by the Disability Coalition Club earlier in the Fall 2024 semester. The committee determined that they would review these concerns, speak with the relevant departments on campus charged with addressing their needs and report these findings here in the annual CSAC report. The following concerns were addressed:

1. An emergency evacuation plan for individuals with disabilities is not easily found on FSC's webpages.

Actions Taken:

- a. A new icon was placed on the University Police Department's webpage entitled, "Disability Evacuation Procedures" which, when clicked, will bring up a PDF with FSC's emergency evacuation procedures for individuals with disabilities.



Evacuation Procedures

- b. Other departments, including Disability Services updated their webpages as well, putting a link on them for this information.

2. After a fire alarm activation and subsequent resetting of a fire alarm panel after an "all-clear", students with disabilities who need to use an elevator are forced to wait an untenable amount of time for the elevator to be reset and made operational by facilities.

Actions Taken:

- a. As part of the emergency evacuation procedures, UPD as well as the Fire Marshal will ensure a prompt response of Facilities to reset any elevators that do not automatically reset.
- b. The campus Fire Marshal is having the contracted fire alarm company install programs to each fire alarm panel that will automatically reset all of the elevators in the building. To date, Hale and Orchard Halls have been completed. Facilities is budgeting for the 2025-26 fiscal year to complete this task in Dewey, the School of Business, Whitman, Gleeson and Quintyne.

3. Issues with automatic door buttons were presented. Some doors are in need of repair and a need for a better mechanism for reporting these problems was requested.

Actions Taken:

- a. FSC Facilities lock shop personnel examined all of the disability automatic door openers. All repairs were made and approximately 6-8 “hand wave” type devices were installed. These devices are easier for students with disabilities to use than traditional push buttons.
- b. Through the Dean of Students Office and Freshman Orientation, better advertising of the Student Concern Portal and its use for reporting safety concerns will be conveyed. When a safety issue comes through the portal it will be immediately forwarded to the appropriate department for action.

4. Complaints of individuals without disabilities parking in accessible parking spots around campus. One specific problematic area that was mentioned was the resident student parking lot adjacent to Orchard Hall. Facilities vehicles and contractors sometimes occupy those spaces while doing work inside Orchard.

Actions Taken:

- a. UPD will continue to conduct strict parking enforcement of all accessible parking spots.
 - a. Parking division will routinely ensure appropriate vehicles are parked in these stalls.
 - b. Accessible “Handicap” placards will be reviewed to ensure that only those individuals, to whom the placard was issued to, are using them to park in an accessible spot. Individuals using someone else’s placard will have the placard confiscated and returned to the issuing authority.
- b. Facilities will continue to remind their employees and contractors not to park in those areas designated as accessible parking spots.

5. With regards to emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities, the students discussed the “Areas of Refuge,” the locations to which they were to wait for assistance from first responders. Specifically, the weight of fire-rated doors which lead to a staircase landing and their difficulty at times to open, the possibility of placing emergency equipment near areas of refuge such as a smoke hood or emergency blanket and ongoing training for FSC employees to assist these individuals.

Actions Taken:

- a. Facilities conducted a review of these doors, corrected any issues with their seal which resulted in a lighter poundage needed to open them.
- b. The campus Fire Marshal reviewed the possibility of placing additional emergency equipment at areas of refuge and determined that this was not a feasible solution. This equipment produces more liability issues and requires some advanced training.
- c. With regards to training FSC personnel, the Fire Marshal has developed a training program and will begin its dissemination in August 2025.

6. The Disability Coalition Club also voiced concerns on behalf of resident students with disabilities. Specifically, in Orchard Hall, they requested automatic door openers for all of the community kitchens and laundry rooms as well as a better procedure for room preparations for incoming resident students with disabilities. In Alumni Hall, the students report that the sign outside of the building states that it is an accessible building, but there is no elevator inside the building.

Actions Taken:

- a. Facilities conducted a review of these doors, corrected any issues which resulted in a lighter poundage needed to open them.
- b. Hand wave door openers are being budgeted for in the 25-26 Facilities budget and are anticipated to be installed on all kitchen and laundry room doors in Orchard Hall in the fall.
- c. With regards to room preparation for resident students with disabilities, Facilities has already begun working on a room for a male resident student with disabilities which includes automatic door openers and automatic bathroom lighting. Communication between the Residence Life Office and Facilities has been enhanced in order to facilitate providing the necessary accommodations in an expedited manner.
- d. As for Alumni Hall being labeled an accessible building, Facilities reports that the NYS building code allows for a building with appropriate accessible doors to be called "Accessible" even in the absence of an elevator.

7. Another area of concern was the access curb near Quintyne and Gleeson Halls. Students without disabilities who were being dropped off tended to block the area in front of the lone curb cut-out needed by individuals with disabilities.

Actions Taken:

- a. Capital Projects and Construction reports that there will be an additional 2 curb cuts/drop curbs installed over the summer to provide enhanced access to the sidewalks in this area.
- b. Facilities will also be redoing the roadway line striping in this area to discourage vehicles from entering the painted area.
- c. UPD will increase patrol of this area to facilitate accessibility.

8. A concern was raised that desks, tables and chairs added to classes by the Disability Services Center (DSC) as an accommodation sometimes get moved by students in other classes so when a DSC student shows up to class, the piece of furniture is not set up right or is unavailable. Additionally, some lab rooms are only equipped with tall, inaccessible tables. A concern is that new buildings are not getting built with students with disabilities in mind.

Actions Taken:

- a. The Disability Services Center has procured stickers/signs to be placed on accessible classroom furniture. Facilities will assist the DSC in placing them over the summer.
- b. Capital Projects and Construction reports that whenever a Capital Project is implemented, all current ADA requirements must be met when possible. This includes the installation of the correct workstations and associated clearances. Existing labs may not be compliant as they predate some/all ADA standards. These spaces will be updated to accommodate ADA requirements as Capital Projects address these areas.

9. Finally, the students voiced a concern of a lack of fully accessible bathrooms on campus. Some bathrooms state that they are accessible bathrooms and they are not.

Actions Taken:

- a. Capital Projects and Construction reports that not all campus bathrooms are ADA compliant. There are ongoing and planned projects to address these deficiencies. Some recently completed bathrooms to address non-compliance can be found on the Laffin Hall 2nd and 3rd floors, 1st floor of Whitman Hall, the lower level of Greenley Hall, and the 1st floor in Alumni Hall. A review of current signage is needed to address some inaccurate signs that were previously installed.

Conclusion

This year's projects that the Campus Safety Advisory Committee undertook will go a long way to enhancing the safety and security of everyone at Farmingdale State College. Additionally, it is very satisfying to see the level of cooperation between the various campus departments focused on a goal to help make FSC a safe campus for individuals with disabilities. The committee looks forward to continuing these efforts and taking on new ones in the upcoming academic year.