

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Winthrop University's Public Safety is committed to promote and preserve a safe and secure campus for its students. As a part of its mission, a Security Walkers' Program should be developed for students.

The report summarizes research conducted at other schools, showing the different types of security escorts, how they chose escorts, and the times available. It also includes a survey of 50 Winthrop students who believed this program would be beneficial due to different crime-related activities in the community.

As the report demonstrates, this program, if approved, will be established as a Federal Work-Study job for students who qualify. It will benefit the females who make up over 70 percent of the school's population. By serving them, Public Safety will fulfill its mission to promote and preserve a safe and secure campus environment.

SAFETY CONCERNS

This report evaluates the possibility of developing a Security Walkers' Program at Winthrop University. At Winthrop each year, we experience problems with parking due to renovations, new construction, and the large amount of incoming freshmen bringing cars, making parking limited on campus. Our campus is lacking in safety when females have to walk alone to their residence halls at night. Many students have expressed their concerns of having to park ten to fifteen minutes away from their residence halls because of limited space. They have expressed that this program will be a great success. Student Government Association President Rodney Brown stated issues and concerns such as lighting, the openness of campus, and security that was brought up in a SGA meeting and fully supports the implementation of this program (Brown).

Previous Efforts

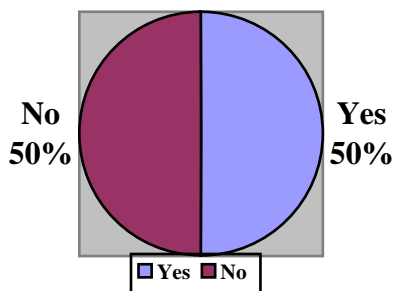
In an interview, Dan Yeargin, Assistant Director of Public Safety, provided information that Winthrop had a security program called "The Night-Walkers Program." This program began in the fall of 1997 (Yeargin). It was a volunteer job for students. The demand for use of this program decreased because students were not being paid. When Public Safety Officers began escorting students, students began abusing the program by making calls to be escorted because it was too cold or to be escorted to and from a party. Another attempt to develop a security program was done by the Student Government Association, but was never implemented. Because of there being no implementation, records were not kept on when they developed the security program (Yeargin).

THE DEMAND FOR A SECURITY WALKER'S PROGRAM

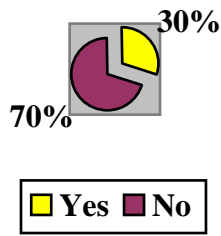
With recent arrests for stalking, harassment, trespassing and rape in the Rock Hill community, there is a great demand by the female population at Winthrop for a Security Walkers' Program to ensure its safety. In determining the safety of Winthrop students, 50 surveys were issued, and the results are displayed in Appendix A.

Figure 1

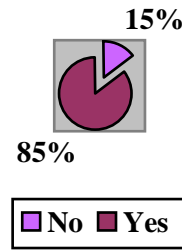
Do You Feel Safe On Campus?



Female Safety



Male Safety

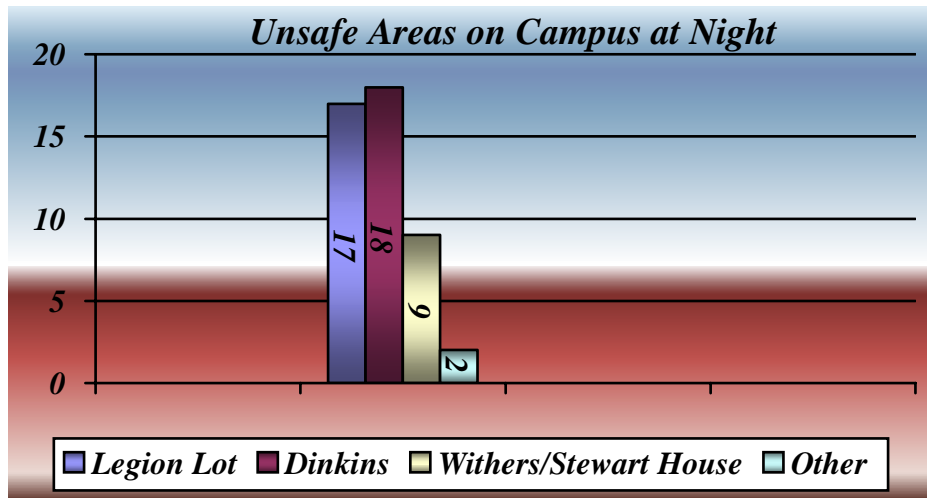


Of the 50 students surveyed, half felt unsafe walking across campus at night. The majority of the students who feel unsafe are females, with the exception of three males.

From speaking with the students, they feel unsafe walking alone at night because of the recent crimes in the Rock Hill community and because of limited lighting around campus. The majority of the males on campus who feel safe do so because of their own self-confidence. If the Security Walkers' Program is implemented, the students surveyed believe that the escorts should be of mixed genders to prevent females from having to walk alone with a male stranger. Seventy percent of the total students surveyed feel that this program is desperately needed on campus and would be effective.

Areas Unsafe On Campus

Figure 2



N=46

Of the 46 students surveyed, most feel unsafe walking across campus at night. As Figure 2 illustrates, most students acknowledged that walking from Dinkins at night is very unsafe because of its distance away from the residence halls and the limited lighting on the sidewalks. Other students agreed the Legion Lot is unsafe because it is "off campus".

Having to walk along the side of the road and cross a railroad track at night to get back to campus is very unsafe, especially for students walking alone. Walking from Withers and the Stewart House, students feel a sense of security because they are walking along the sidewalk, but still feel unsafe due to poor lighting behind the Stewart House. Other places on campus that students were concerned about were walking from academic buildings at night, such as from Kinard to Wofford. The reason that Winthrop should have a Security Walkers' Program is to provide assurance of safety for the students.

SUCCESSFUL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Ninety percent of the schools researched have successful security walker programs. Below are different ways in which colleges and universities provide their escort services.

GEORGIA

- Emory University
 - Security Escorts are provided by Community Service Officers, Student Patrol, and EPD Officers.
 - Operate Shuttle Bus Services

NEW YORK

- Cornell University
 - Operate daily from 6:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m.
 - Operate Blue Light Buses

NORTH CAROLINA

- Fayetteville State University
 - Campus Job
 - Must have 2.0 GPA Requirement
 - Must pass employee investigation
 - Must complete training class

SOUTH CAROLINA

- College of Charleston
 - 24 hour services, 7 days a week
 - Escort faculty and students to/from class and parking lots
 - Student Volunteer Program

VIRGINIA

- Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Have 45 student security personnel
 - Escorts operate from 5:30 p.m. until 2 a.m. Monday thru Saturday and 6 a.m. until 12 a.m. on Sundays

- Operates Shuttle Bus Services. Must have valid ID when boarding bus.
- Operates 24 hours a day.

These are just a few colleges and universities who take part in a Security Escort Service. Each school researched has one main goal: The students' safety is their number one priority.

THE RECOMMENDATION

Taking the security program into consideration, Dan Yeargin recommended the following suggestions for implementing this project and for its success. In order for the program to be successful, the first step is the total cost of the program.

Federal Work-Study

The total cost for this program will be very limited, because students working for the Security Walkers' Program will be qualified for Federal Work-Study. This will enable Public Safety to continue its fiscal year without allocating funds from its budget. The Federal Work-Study Program provides jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses, (www.ed.gov). Students are required to be paid the current federal minimum wage, but can be paid more if the degree of the job increases. With the relatively high percentage of Winthrop students who have work-study, security walkers should not be a problem to find.

Interviewing and Training

Dan Yeargin also recommended that each student who applies for this job is interviewed and has a criminal background check. This will ensure the safety of those being escorted. After the employee's interview, each student is required to have a small training session with the Officers of Public Safety before he/she begins the job. This training will allow the students to get to know the officers, become familiar with the program, and understand their responsibilities.

Date and Time

From the survey issued, 50 percent of the student population agreed that services should be available from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m. Forty-eight percent agreed to have services available from 12 midnight until morning. These are just time suggestions to take into consideration for the Security Walkers' Program, but the final decision is based on the number of staff members.

This approach for implementing a Security Walkers' Program for Winthrop University will be a great success. Beginning in the fall of 2001, Public Safety along with the Student Government Association can issue flyers with safety tips as shown in Appendix B. The Student Government Association can also place emphasis on

safety at its monthly meetings. Being the voice of the student body, SGA will be able to help Public Safety by revamping previous programs and implementing the idea of incorporating work-study students. With the support of SGA and the Winthrop community, Public Safety will continue to live up to their Mission Statement to, “promote and preserve a safe and secure campus environment by delivering quality police and community safety service in a professional and sensitive manner,” (www.winthrop.edu/publicsafety).

APPENDIX A

SECURITY SURVEY RESULTS

Please check the following:

Male <u>20</u>	Freshman <u>15</u>	Junior <u>12</u>	On Campus
<u>36</u>			
Female <u>30</u>	Sophomore <u>9</u>	Senior <u>14</u>	Off Campus
<u>14</u>			

1. Do you feel safe walking alone on campus at night?

Yes 26 (skip to #3) No 24

2. If no, which area(s) on campus do you feel are unsafe when you walk through them

at night? (Check all that apply)

Legion Lot 17 Dinkins 18

Withers/Stewart House 9 Other: Please Specify Across campus

3. Do you feel a Security Escort Program is needed on campus?

Yes 35 No 15

4. If this program were implemented, would you use it?

Yes 24 No 26

5. What time would you want these services available?

6 p.m. – 10 p.m. 1 7 p.m. – 12 a.m. 25 12 a.m. – Until 24

Other: Please Specify _____

6. Do you think the Security Walkers' Program should be staffed by... (Choose One)

All Males? 14

All Females? 1

Both Males & Females? 30

7. Should the Security Walkers be paid?

Yes 42 No 8

8. Do you have Federal Work Study?

Yes 19 No 31

APPENDIX B

Public Safety General Personal Safety Tips

- You should never walk alone! However, if you must walk alone, have a plan and choose open well lighted and well traveled areas.
- When walking you should walk facing traffic. Be cautious of drivers that stop to talk to you.
- **BE AWARE** of your surroundings! Giving the appearance of not paying attention and not being alert is what offenders look for in a victim.
- **NEVER HITCHHIKE!**
- Always tell someone where you'll be and what time you are going to return.
- Do not wear headphones while walking and jogging.
- Clogs, high heels, and tight skirts are hard to run and fight in. Capes, scarves and long necklaces are easy to grab. Consider modifying your clothing.
- Avoid being on the street alone if you are upset or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- If you are being followed: cross the street, change directions, keep looking back so the person knows you can't be surprised.
- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!**

www.winthrop.edu/publicsafety

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