

## *Commission on Women and Gender Equity*

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**TO:** Dr. Tony Frank, President

**FROM:** Dr. Paola Malpezzi Price, Co-Chair and members of the CWGE

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation for support for the Safe Walk Program for campus safety

**DATE:** May 24, 2011

### **Background**

Spring 2011, the CSU President's Commission on Women and Gender Equity (CWGE) met with President Tony Frank to discuss the results from the Campus Safety Survey conducted in 2010. The perception of the lack of safety on the campus emerged as one of the two main areas of concern from the survey results. After the commission's conversation with President Frank, the Campus Safety Sub-Committee investigated safety programs on campus and focused on the Safe Walk program. The goal was to partner with the CSU Police Department to increase the Safe Walk program's potential impact on the campus community.

The Safe Walk program started at CSU in 1992 and still operates with its original funding budget established 19 years ago. Generally, the program experiences a \$9,000 to \$10,000 shortfall every year due to budget constraints and is backfilled through various means. One year the CSU Police Department approached ASCSU to request funding for the program and was turned down. These funding constraints have prohibited increased visibility and growth of the program since its establishment.

Fall 2010, a survey was conducted to assess the usage of Safe Walk. Unfortunately, usage remains low for the program either because: 1) individuals feel safe or 2) individuals do not want to "bother" to use the program. Note that the first reason for low usage is in contrast to the findings of the CWGE 2010 survey, in which campus safety was a concern of the respondents. The Safe Walk program has documented increased use when the weather is inclement or there is a publicized safety incident on campus.

The CWGE Campus Safety Committee collaborated with the CSU Police Department to develop three recommendations for the CSU administration's consideration to increase visibility and usage of the Safe Walk program. The hope is that these recommendations will start to address the concerns in the 2010 CWGE Campus Safety Survey.

### **Recommendations**

#### Maintenance of the Safe Ride vehicle

The CSU Police Department is currently investigating the purchase of Jeep Liberty vehicle for \$18,000 to be used as a marked Safe Ride vehicle. This vehicle will be used, in conjunction with the Safe Walk program, for the safe transportation of students to and from campus buildings. The vehicle will require approximately \$500 per month of maintenance, which will have to be paid from revenue based accounts which may be taxed by other priorities. Therefore the sub-

committee proposes that CSU administration consider other means to financially support the maintenance of the vehicle.

#### Communicate the Availability of Safe Walk/Ride to the Campus Community

The sub-committee suggests distributing keychain cards with Safe Walk/Ride telephone number to students on campus. This would allow students to have this information readily available. We plan to contact a campus food vendor to see if they would be willing to provide an advertised discount printed on the cards at their establishment to encourage students to carry the key card at all times.

#### Safety Map

The distribution of pocket size campus safety maps by the Campus Safety Officers (CSO) would lead to the increased awareness of safety options on campus. The maps would include the locations for all the campus call boxes and information on Safe Walk/Ride.

#### **Potential Impact**

During orientation sessions for new students, parents are often the individuals most enthused about the Safe Walk program. The sub-committee's recommendations are tangible ways to actualize the parent's enthusiasm about the program into usage by their students. Other campuses in Colorado have similar safety vehicles and programs such as University of Colorado and University of Denver. The details of each safety ride program are available at the websites for these universities: <http://umc.colorado.edu/nrnw/> and <https://www.parking.du.edu/shuttle> respectively. Therefore, increased financial support of Safe Walk/Ride would place CSU in alignment with peer institutions to provide safe options for students.

#### **Budget**

Keychain cards 20,000 units	\$3,000.00
Safety Maps	\$1,000.00
<u>Maintenance for the Safe Walk/Ride Vehicle at \$500.00 per month</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
Total	10,000.00