

Building and Safety Committee 2009-2010

Final Report to the Dean

Members:

Argo, Megan
Allen, Krista
Johnson, Cyndi
Lovato, Peggy
Parker, Carol, Chair
Phelan, Pam
Winograd, Peter
Julia Catron (3L)
Jennifer McCabe (1L)

Charge:

Provide a liaison to facilities administrators concerning building and safety issues; make policy recommendations with respect to building use and personal safety after regular business hours, and address student concerns related to expansion of building access; review existing policies on use of rooms by outside groups.

Accomplishments:

- (1) During the academic year, the committee succeeded in having a defibrillator machine installed in the Forum near the Mail Room. Numerous individuals (faculty, staff and students) took First Aid training and learned how to operate the device.
- (2) The committee considered the law students' request to have 24/7 access to the Law building. After extensive discussion, surveys, and consultation with various university officials, the committee recommended to the Dean that law students be provided 24/7 access to the Law Library, but not the entire Law Building. The Dean subsequently authorized the Library to proceed to allow 24/7 student access to the Library which began on March 1, 2010. The resultant policy statement is available at: <https://lobolaw.unm.edu/Lawlib/24-7-access.php>.

Building hours have traditionally reflected Law Library hours. With the advent of 24/7 student access to the Library, it may be possible to reduce the building hours in order to increase security overall. However, the committee did not make a recommendation to the Dean with regard to changing building hours since 24/7 student access did not begin until the middle of spring semester. The committee felt it was best to finish the semester without changing hours mid-term. However, **the committee recommends that this topic be taken up for further discussion next year** after we know how feasible it will be to continue to provide the students with their own Library entrance, and whether having this access will result in any measurable difference in the amount of overall building access the students need.

(3) The committee drafted a policy on use of law school space by outside groups, and recommends that the Dean implement it. The policy may be found at:

<https://lobolaw.unm.edu/events/parker-trial.php>. In accordance with University policy, the Law School may permit non-profit groups and organizations to use its classrooms for meetings and events. The law school has done so for as long as any of the committee members could remember. However, the liberal policy of the past presents a multitude of administrative and security challenges, and has on occasion disrupted the educational environment due to equipment being unplugged and not ready for classes the following day, and occasional conflict with law school needs when outside groups are in the space.

The proposed policy allows such groups to continue to have limited access to rooms provided such usage does not interfere with the Law School's educational mission. The Law School does not (and we are told may not) charge such groups for use of its rooms; however, it can charge for use of IT equipment and technical support by Law School personnel. During the past academic year, the Dean approved a related policy of charges for equipment and support that can now be applied to outside group usage. This policy statement may be found at: <https://lobolaw.unm.edu/events/use-it-equipment.php>.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Parker, Chair