



**Georgia State University
Student Government Association**

90th Administration

University-Wide Campus Safety Committee

Chair Spencer C. DeHart

Welcome

Congratulations on being elected to serve as the University-Wide Campus Safety Committee Chair for the 91st Administration! As I have said time and again, we in SGA have an elevated responsibility to the students of Georgia State University, and I commend you for taking on a leadership position that only adds to that responsibility.

As the University-Wide Campus Safety Committee Chair, you are tasked with being the liaison between GSUPD and SGA, as well as advocating for safety around campus. Your position differs from that of other SGA committees in that the work you do will rely less on crafting legislation and hosting events, and more on gathering information. The U-Wide Safety Committee serves an oversight role of GSUPD and the University to ensure that safety concerns are being addressed.

In forming your committee, I offer you two pieces of advice: be confident and be thorough. Find a group of Senators/EVPs that will be committed. Our greatest shortfall from last year was that we had a number of members with varying levels of commitment. Form your membership quickly and be confident in your choices. Additionally, be thorough. It will be advantageous for you to have insight from every campus. Try to form a diverse coalition within your committee and you will set yourself up for success.

The biggest piece of advice I can give you for this coming year is to repeat one task from last year. Towards the beginning of the fall semester, I had the foresight to schedule “Campus Safety Tours” with Senators and EVPs of each campus to identify potential concerns and listen to their input. This experience was invaluable, both from a functionality perspective, and a relational one as it provided me the opportunity to connect with students from the Perimeter campuses. If you take nothing else, remember that you are a University-Wide committee and must be committed to addressing concerns on every campus.

I wish you all the best in your efforts this year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer C. DeHart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Spencer C. DeHart

2019-2020 Chair, University-Wide Campus Safety Committee

Table of Contents

Welcome	2
Table of Contents	3
Resources	4
2019-2020 Committee Members	5
2019-2020 Schedule	6
Continuing Initiatives	7
A Note on COVID-19	8
Closing	9
Meeting Minutes	Attached

Key Contacts and Resources

Name	Position	Contact
Spencer C. DeHart	Former Committee Chair	sdehart1@student.gsu.edu
Chief Joseph Spillane	GSUPD Chief of Police	jspillane@gsu.edu
Aidelle Gaskins	GSUPD Social Media Team	agaskins1@gsu.edu
Michael Sanseviro	Dean of Students	dsanseviro@gsu.edu
SGA Support	SGA Support Staff	sgasupportstaff@gsu.edu
Gail Sutton	SGA Advisor- ATL	gsutton@gsu.edu
Boyd Beckwith	SGA Advisor- U-Wide	bbeckwith@gsu.edu

Committee Members

Fall 2019

	Campus
Senator Spencer C. DeHart (Chair)	Atlanta
Senator Cedric Jackson	Atlanta
EVP Yasmin Henry	Clarkston
Senator Michelle Martinez	Dunwoody
EVP Cassie Turner	Newton

Spring 2020

Senator Spencer C. DeHart (Chair)	Atlanta
Senator Mario Calcagno	Atlanta
Senator Nia Cole	Atlanta
Senator Takia Tinsley	Atlanta
EVP Michelle Martinez	Dunwoody
EVP Cassie Turner	Newton

Others with Notable Involvement

Liaison Hermela Assefa	Atlanta
Speaker Kaelen Thomas	Atlanta

2019-2020 Schedule

Date

Event

September 27, 2019

University-Wide Safety Committee Meeting

October 11, 2019

University-Wide Safety Committee Meeting

October 25, 2019

University-Wide Safety Committee Meeting

January 31, 2020

University-Wide Safety Committee Meeting

March 13, 2020

Emergency Joint Meeting with Atlanta Student Services
Committee to discuss COVID-19 Response

Continuing Initiatives

Smoke-Free Campus

A multi-year initiative to encourage stricter enforcement of the Smoke-Free Campus policy.

LightGSU

One of the main issues on campus is the lack of lighting. This is prevalent not just at the Atlanta campus, but also on many of the Perimeter campuses. This past year, we have been working with GSUPD and Facilities Management to identify areas with low or no lighting and making improvements.

#LookUp Campaign

It was noted to me early on that many of the crimes that occur on campus (theft, kidnapping, etc.) are due, in part, to many students walking on campus on their cell phone. The #LookUp Campaign is a social media campaign to encourage students to pay attention while on campus, specifically at night.

GSUPD Social Media Video

I was contacted late last year by the GSUPD social media team to partner with them on a video promoting both the #LookUp campaign, as well as other safety information. This project was disrupted as classes went online in March.

A Note on COVID-19

As students begin to adjust back to on-campus life, many will be concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, I predict you will be quickly thrown into the spotlight as keeping students safe in the aftermath of the pandemic will be a top priority for the University. If the University System of Georgia chooses to continue with online instruction into the fall, you will be challenged with trying to form and administer this Committee virtually. Conversely, if USG chooses to return to campus, you will be faced with an extremely nervous student body looking for leadership.

In either event, my advice to you is to be swift in formation and persistent in execution. You're first major task will be to form this Committee. I advise you to quickly gather a coalition of 4-5 Senators that will be committed to you and the Committee and solidify your roster early. Your next step will be to gather information. Reach out to Chief Spillane and Dean Sanseviro and establish a relationship with each of them as they will be your most important contacts through the transition.

As I noted earlier, your job is not so much to plan events as it is to stay informed. Through this transition back to campus, your job will be to ensure the administration is taking meaningful steps to ensure the safety of students, as well as working to promote information and safety through SGA social media and to students around campus.

This will be the biggest challenge you face this year. In times like these, consistency is key. Work to gather as much information as you can, and make sure to keep your Committee and the Senate up to date with the latest information. Lastly, don't be afraid to reach out to your SGA leaders. Your President, EVP, and Speaker will be working through this transition with you. It will help to have a team with you to take on this challenge. Best of luck!

Closing

Once again, congratulations on becoming the next University-Wide Campus Safety Committee Chair! I wish you all the best in the coming year as you look to continue the progress we've made and make new strides on your own. Unlike you, I did not have the advantage of receiving a transition binder last year. I implore you to use this information to your advantage and add to it as you progress.

I give you one final piece of advice for this coming year: use your resources to your advantage. In SGA, you are surrounded by leaders with valuable insight. Whether you are new to SGA or returning, listen to the advice of your advisors, President, EVP, and Speaker. I have found that they are a valuable resource. Additionally, please feel free to reach out to me at any time throughout the year for advice!

Best of Luck!