

District Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

Attendees: Don Mueller, Elmer Gomez, Chelsea Van Doornum, Christopher Dela Cruz, Adrian Ayub, Victoria Vaja, Erik Duane, Micki England, Michael Meadors

Meeting summary

The campus safety committee met to discuss construction updates, emergency preparedness protocols, and recent free speech events on campus. Elmer provided construction status reports, including the SSA building being 77% complete, Falcon Square starting construction in July 2026, and the stadium project remaining on budget at \$130-150 million. The committee reviewed Mickey's suggestions for emergency preparedness improvements, including adding building perimeters to evacuation procedures, installing security mirrors in hallways, and addressing locked theater doors. Chief Mueller addressed recent free speech incidents, explaining that while controversial events are allowed on campus, they must not disrupt normal operations or violate state law. The conversation ended with discussions about parking lot issues, particularly regarding vehicles blocking staff parking spaces in Lot 4.

Construction Projects Status Update

The meeting covered construction updates across multiple projects. Elmer reported that the Student Service and Administration building is 77% complete with construction, on track for December completion, while Falcon Square construction will begin in July 2026. The Police Department Building and Child Development Center are scheduled to start construction soon, with the Police Department Building's interim housing planned for the next month or two. The stadium project remains on schedule with a \$130-150 million budget, though the soccer field replacement is 55 days behind schedule due to DSA approval issues, potentially requiring temporary use of a local facility.

Elmer explained that construction updates are tracked by Tilden Coyle's team and are visible on their whiteboard. Mueller reported that Health Sciences has been fully integrated into the emergency response system with assigned floor marshals and updated evacuation maps. Victoria raised concerns about outdated information in the emergency response sheets, including incorrect personnel listings for Health Occupations and Culinary departments, which Mueller agreed to address with Elizabeth Riley.

Campus Free Speech Policy Clarification

Chief Mueller addressed concerns about campus free speech policies, clarifying that while the campus must allow free speech as a constitutional right, there are limits to maintain safety and educational functioning. He explained that the police department cannot restrict speech based on content or remove individuals unless there is a violation of state law or immediate safety threat. When asked about specific incidents, Mueller confirmed that some students were denied entry to a nighttime event due to concerning comments about potentially pepper spraying the speaker, though no pepper spray was actually used. He also discussed ongoing investigations into graffiti targeting Dean Miller, noting that while police reports were filed, there was no camera footage of the incidents.

The meeting focused on campus free speech policies and signage. Chief Mueller explained their approach to handling potentially disruptive situations, aiming to de-escalate until violence or safety concerns arise. The group discussed current signage, with Chelsea mentioning work on quick guides and a potential webpage with QR codes. Christopher suggested placing signage in high-traffic areas like EOPS sidewalk and Falcon Square. The discussion also touched on existing individuals on campus, including a long-term presence of an evangelical individual who respects First Amendment rights.

Evacuation and Communication Protocols

Meadors and Mueller discussed evacuation procedures during a Great Shakeout drill, where Micki suggested adding a building perimeter sweep. Mueller expressed concerns about liability and efficiency, explaining that in real emergencies, sweeps would only occur after initial evacuation when it's safe to return. They also addressed radio communication protocols, with Mueller explaining that only team leaders receive radios to avoid chaos, as adding more could result in 75-100 radios creating coordination issues.

The discussion concluded with a brief mention of striker chairs being addressed by facilities. Elmer reported on plans to replace older chairs with striker chairs in various buildings, particularly in areas with basements where accessibility during emergencies is a concern. The group also discussed progress on integrating the public address system with the fire alarm system, which is expected to be completed within the next few months. Regarding emergency backpacks, Mueller expressed challenges in tracking their locations due to frequent moves and changes in assignments, suggesting that building division offices may be the best place to manage them rather than creating a comprehensive spreadsheet tracking system.

Supply Distribution and Safety Logistics

The group discussed logistics for supply distribution, with Victoria and Micki suggesting that cadets could carry supplies in their carts, though Mueller noted security concerns with this approach. They agreed that officers' patrol cars, which are securely locked, would be a better option for storing supplies. The discussion then moved to building safety improvements, where Elmer confirmed that security mirrors and panoramic viewing cameras could be installed upon request through a work order system. Mickey expressed support for installing mirrors in hallways to improve visibility and safety, and Elmer agreed to assess specific areas and install appropriate solutions.

Door Signage Compliance Discussion

The group discussed door signage compliance and accessibility issues. Elmer explained that current campus standards require door signage to be placed on the side of doors rather than above them for ADA compliance, including braille markings. Micki raised concerns about theater doors being locked at all times, preventing student access to classrooms. Mueller suggested addressing this issue with Gary Pritchard, who has authority over such decisions, and noted that facilities would need direction from him to make any changes.

Window Coverings and Parking Access

Two issues were raised: window coverings in doors and parking lot access problems. Mueller clarified that windows in doors must remain uncovered except during emergencies, and he agreed to discuss this with Felipe at manager's meetings. Regarding parking, Duane raised concerns about vehicles blocking staff parking spots in C4, particularly during drop-offs. Mueller suggested implementing a staff-only entry system with an access card to prevent non-staff vehicles from using the area as a drop-off point. The group also discussed the proper process for requesting accessibility equipment, which should go through SAS rather than facilities directly.

Meeting Follow-up To Do List

1. Mueller: Remove Health Occupations Office from emergency response sheet (Area 6) and update with correct information for Skills Lab by consulting with Elizabeth Riley for appropriate 12-month lab staff contact.
2. Mueller: Follow up regarding Michael Perini's status (retirement) and update the emergency response sheet as needed.
3. Elmer: Send Mueller any updates regarding facility staff changes for emergency response sheets.

4. Elmer: Continue research and installation of striker (evacuation) chairs in needed areas, especially where code requires, in coordination with Felipe.
5. Elmer: Work with contractor to integrate public address system with fire alarm system for emergency notifications (target: within next few months).
6. Micki: Submit a work order to facilities for installation of security mirrors/panoramic viewing devices in needed hallways/corners.
7. Micki: Address theater building access issues with Gary Pritchard and, if directed, submit a work order to facilities to ensure appropriate doors are unlocked for student access.
8. Mueller: Bring up the issue of covered door windows (violation of ADA) to Felipe for discussion at the manager's meetings.
9. Mueller: Suggest to Felipe the installation of an access arm at the entrance to C4 parking to restrict entry to staff only, and coordinate with Elmer and Carlos on possible design changes to discourage drop-offs in front of the Social Science Building.
10. Mueller: Increase/enforce parking lot enforcement to prevent blocking of staff parking spots in C4, especially during busy periods.