



# NKU takes proactive approach to safety

By Howard McEwen • Enquirer contributor • September 5, 2010

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - Northern Kentucky University has created a Students of Concern Committee designed to receive and possibly act on information or behavior of concern exhibited by a student or group of students.

"Since the shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University, committees of this nature are being formed on college campuses more and more," said Zebulun Davenport, NKU's vice president of student affairs.

"The Students of Concern Committee at NKU is a proactive way to address the growing need in the college and university community for a centralized, coordinated, caring, developmental intervention for those in need prior to crisis," he said.

The committee is chaired by the NKU dean of students. Its members are associate to the dean of students; NKU's chief of police; the director of health, counseling and prevention services; a university legal counsel representative; a faculty member; and the assistant director of student support services. Davenport said the members were chosen for their level of expertise in handling student issues and their ability to assess situations and make educated and informed decisions if necessary.

"Because the chief of police is on this committee, we work in tandem with our campus police and public safety department," Davenport said. "Our first priority is the safety of everyone in the campus community. However, we educate our community that if a student is posing a threat to the safety of himself or herself or others, or becomes physically or verbally abusive, University Police should be contacted

immediately."

Davenport said examples of behavior that should come to the committee's attention are "any unusual student behavior including students who may seem socially withdrawn, a student whose behavior may threaten the campus community, behavior that disrupts the learning environment, a student who has experienced a personal tragedy or crisis, students who are missing from class or the residence halls, and students who attend class who may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs."

NKU's Students of Concern Committee was modeled after similar committee's at the University of South Carolina and the University of Mississippi. NKU is also a member of the National Behavior Intervention Team Association, which provided additional resources.

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