ITS Cameras Meeting

Joseph Rufo (Vice President for Administration) invited graduate students to a meeting, with the purpose informing and answering questions related to this topic.

1. Current Situation (Joseph Rufo)

   o The cameras were installed in 2003, by the previous administration and I had assumed that everyone knew about them. This issue started at an Academic Council Meeting (which I was attending for a different reason), when someone commented about this and it came to my attention that no one knew. A number of Questions arose, morein his ppt

   o There are 11 cameras on campus with audio (Illick 5, Baker 141, 145, 146, 148, Nifkin and Gateway A/B/C)

   o ITS people have a continuous streaming, but no one sits there to watch, they are only viewed when there is an issue. In Illick 5, the audio is far from the seats, so there is barely any audio.

   o There is no recording or archives, only a live streaming

   o They were initially installed in rooms where technical issues were frequent. The idea is to get a view from the screen when something is not working, to avoid waiting until personnel can go to the room, they use the cameras look at the issue and can walk the user through the procedure to fix the issue

   o There are also surveillance cameras on campus, no audio, located outdoor (Quad, outside of of buildings, etc). This is being taped and can be retrieved when necessary (ex: bike theft)

2. New Policy

- o Currently, there is no policy regulating the use of these cameras. President Wheeler designated a taskforce, to gather concerns and recommend how to approach this issue

- o Potential Solutions

    1. Get rid of the cameras

    2. Keep the cameras, including signage to indicate their presence, creating a Policy to regulate their use, and releasing information about location of the cameras

3. Questions and Answers

- o Bryan: Can the cameras have a switch to be turn off, when needed?

    1. No, it is not that simple

    2. For now, power cords were taken from the cameras to have them off

    3. Cameras can be viewed by University Policy, they are not currently streaming live, but the police can sign in to see it. They do not use them, as they are very busy and there is no time to be watching

- o Craig: Some cameras are still on?

    1. Yes, those in Gateway and Nifkin

- o Stacey: At ITS, only Chris and Ross have access, or also undergrads?

    1. Only Chris and Ross should have access. They have been asked by Dept Chair to give access to classes to evaluate faculty performance. Those requests were denied. It is also possible that some other student working at ITS could have seen the streaming at some point, but that is not the intended general practice.

- o Doug: They can be used in case we leave the equipment on, right? Can it be remotely shot off?

    1. That is right

- o Allison: Are microphones and cameras different? Could they be separately disabled?

    1. I have no idea.

    2. But it seems like disabling only the microphones could be an alternative solution, many people are more concerned about the microphones than the cameras

3. As I said about the microphones, some of them provide very little audio, but some others are on the front podium, and broadcasting all the time, so any conversations by the podium can be heard easily

o Bryan: How often or crucial is to be able to see the room to fix something?

1. When you are not and IT related person, it's difficult to say or try to explain on the phone what the problem is, while easier for them to take a look and just guide you through the process. It's been helpful to me a couple of times

2. There is no record of how many times it was used, though.

o Allison: Can you see or record who is looking at each camera?

1. The system is up all the time, no need to log in, there is a login to start it in the morning, but the rest is working all the time, no record of who access it. But that could be implemented in the future.

o Bryan: What was the original purpose of the cameras?

1. They were initially installed in the rooms with the most problems, to support issues with the technology

o Craig: About the access for University Police, it would be important to know the level of use

1. They can log in into the same system, but no idea of the mechanism.

2. They don't really use it, unless there is an incident.

o Allison: how often the rooms have been fixed using this system?

1. Joseph R: don't think this exists, but could be a good idea

2. Allison. There should be protocols, and a record or inventory

3. Craig: It would help to have a quantification of the usefulness, so that we know how much is worth it

4. Joseph R: There are differences of opinions about whether the cameras should be used. I personally have no preference about whether to keep them or not, but it is important that everyone is aware of the trade-offs, in terms of maintenance, if the cameras are disabled permanently

o Final decision

1. Allison: Are recommendations from the task force binding?

2. Joseph R: Recommendations from the taskforce not necessarily binding, the President will have the last word

3. Stacey: When will this matter be resolved?

4. Joseph R: probably by the end of the semester, while people are still here. So far, it seems like audio may be more sensitive than the video and part of the solution could be disabling the audio.

5. Bryan: audio is a much bigger issue; it jeopardizes freedom of speech and ability to participate in a class.

6. Joseph R: Non-tenured professors are especially concerned about how their performance could be monitored.

Miscellaneous

1. Alcohol Policy

   o The situation: We discovered that we were out of compliance of state regulations with our alcohol practices at ESF. Serving alcohol on campus requires permits. So, we have been working on a new way to allow events with alcohol on campus

   o The new Policy: We still have the previous process in place; for this type of event the current forms will be used and it will have to be approved by Dean Lombard, but further steps may be required to obtain necessary permits. Better to have caterers that have permits already. With the new policy, beer and wine will still be allowed, and this type of event could be set up at Gateway A, B or C.

   o Allison: What about other events, smaller events, such as The American Chestnut Foundation Meeting?

   o Joseph R: Serving alcohol at such event will only be possible with a caterer.

   o Eileen: I talked to Diana Johnson, from Morrisville Corporation and she indicated me that orders would need to be placed in advance for them to obtain authorization and the required permit. What would be the new time frame to apply for an event with alcohol on campus?

   o Joseph R: about 30 days in advance, it is not defined yet, but it will be in the policy once finalized

2. Parking Passes

   o Craig: We would like to find out if GSA Senators could get passes to park on campus before 4pm, in case of events. Maybe to have one parking pass for campus, to be shared among Senators, or a couple for Standart Lot. Or maybe

we would need to budget for passes for Standart, which are about $400 per pass.

- o Joseph R: The best way to go is for you to send an e-mail with the details. We could try to figure out a way to provide this and avoid abuses. Currently, ESF does not pay for Standart Lot parking passes given to students.

3. Dr Wheeler's Presentation April 23rd

- o Dr. Quentin Wheeler will do a short presentation of his vision and there will be an open forum afterwards

- o Fee Increase: he would like to make an announcement/consultation about a Fee Increase, this is related to services provided by SU

- o Some Services are quite expensive and we are not sure whether the students use them or not; this will need to be discussed in order to decide to keep these services or not.

Attendance:

GSA Senate

1. Craig Lazzar   President
2. Eileen Leon   Secretary
3. Allison Oakes   Treasurer
4. Stacey Mack   FNRM Representative (I)
5. Rigo Melgar   GPES Representative
6. Doug Morrison   Faculty Advisor

Guests

Xolile Maphanga - ERE
Bryan Comer - GPES
GSU Representative