

SECTION 3, COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD 3.10.6

The institution takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all members of the campus community.

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia is strongly committed to protecting the environment and human health and safety in all of its operations as stated in the *Board of Regents Policy Manual*, section 916 [1]. Accordingly, the Board recognizes that proactive efforts must be made to ensure that sound environmental, health and safety planning is integrated into every level of University System decision-making. Furthermore, this policy mandates that each institution within the System shall:

- comply with all applicable environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. In the absence of specific laws or regulations, good management practices shall be followed;
- develop, follow and continuously improve environmental, health and safety programs; including emergency action plans, for all facilities and operations;
- perform periodic environmental, health and safety reviews of facilities and programs to correct deficiencies, establish goals and identify funding priorities;
- designate a specific individual to coordinate environmental, health and safety affairs for the institution. This individual shall be a key member of each institution's administrative leadership team and shall be supported with appropriate resources;
- promote environmental, health and safety awareness among all faculty, staff and students by providing administrative support and appropriate resources for training and program implementation;
- design, construct and operate all facilities in a manner that protects the health and safety of the occupants and the environment. Environmental, health and safety factors shall be an integral part of each institution's master planning efforts;

- practice waste minimization and pollution prevention by adopting recycling programs for all appropriate materials, purchasing recycled products, substituting less hazardous materials and establishing micro-scale chemistry operations;
- recognize the relationship between energy and the environment and implement strategies such as energy-efficient facility lighting and equipment upgrades and alternative fuel vehicles, where appropriate;
- work cooperatively with government, industry, and other organizations in developing reasonable and cost-effective environmental, health and safety legislation and regulations which protect the environment and human health; and
- serve as environmentally responsible neighbors and promote sustainable development on campus properties and in local communities.

North Georgia College and State University shares the Board of Regents' strong commitment toward maintaining a healthy, safe, and secure environment and articulates this commitment through the University's Strategic Plan [2]. Specifically, the Strategic Directions read:

"Improve the university environment for the health, safety, and comfort of students, staff, and faculty."

In support of the university strategic direction, the Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance has delineated the following strategic, unit goals [3]:

- "Carefully evaluate the University environment as it relates to all aspects of Public Safety and homeland security and will develop new policies and procedures as necessary to assure a safe environment for the students, faculty, and staff of the University; "
- "Continue to seek both major capital and maintenance and repair resources consistent with the University Master Plan and responsive to the needs of the University."

One way the University achieves these objectives is through the Environmental Health and Safety Office. This department is tasked with ensuring the general health and safety of the campus environment through the enforcement of hazardous waste management code compliance, risk management, and fire code compliance. They also administer the Employee Right to Know program and the campus' emergency preparedness plan to ensure that the University is prepared to deal with disasters on a larger scale. The North Georgia College and State University Policies and Procedures manual [4] addresses the following areas:

Facilities Policies and Procedures

- Use of NGCSU facilities (section 910.0)
- Civil Defense Disaster Plan for Natl. Disaster (section 935.0)
- Bomb Threat Emergency Procedures (section 936.0)
- Renovations (section 936.0)
- Key and Lock Policy (section 960)
- Hazardous Materials Policies and Procedures (section 1201.00 – 1201.17G)

Other publications include the *Emergency Procedures Desktop Reference*. The Public Safety Department [5] is responsible for ensuring that all students and employees are safe in their person and belongings, that the property of the University is protected against theft and vandalism, and that all laws of the State of Georgia are enforced. They are also responsible for traffic control [6] on campus. The department consists of state-certified police officers who have the same authority as any municipal police department.

Additionally, the University promotes a campus recycling program and asks that all students and employees participate. Physical Plant places containers for materials such as office paper near departmental offices and in various locations around campus. The University also encourages faculty, staff, and students to participate in the energy conservation program by turning off lighting and other power consuming equipment when it is not needed.

In addition to the above, the Faculty Senate [7] maintains a statutory, Health Committee, as defined in the faculty senate Bylaws [8]. The purpose of the Health Committee shall be to recommend policy to the President of the University concerning student health services as well as matters related to the general health and safety of the University community.

Finally, University System of Georgia Chancellor, Thomas Meredith recommended that all USG institutions appoint a Campus Homeland Security Committee [9] to assist in facilitating compliance with the USA Patriot ACT. North Georgia College and State University created the NGCSU Homeland Security Committee with representation from:

- Campus Safety
- Academic Affairs
- Residence Life
- Plant Operations
- Human Resources
- Information Technology

Subsequently, the committee published their Emergency Action Plan [10] and developed the Emergency Operations Center.

Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		Board of Regents, Policy Manual, Section 916, Environmental Health and Safety	http://www.usg.edu/regents/policymanual/900.phtml
2		North Georgia College and State University Strategic Directions 2003-2008	http://www.ngcsu.edu/Resource/IRP/Strategic%20Plan%20Jan%202004-FY%202008/Strategic%20Directions.pdf
3		North Georgia College and State University, Proposed Strategic Planning Unit Goals 2003-2008, Office of the Vice President for Business & Finance	http://www.ngcsu.edu/Resource/IRP/Strategic%20Plan%20Jan%202004-FY%202008/goals.htm
4		NGCSU Policy and Procedures Manual	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/NGCSU_Policies_Procedures/Table_of_Contents_All.pdf
5		NGCSU Department of Public Safety	http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/pubsafe/index.htm
6		NGCSU Department of Public Safety Traffic Code Index	http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/pubsafe/codeindex.htm
7		NGCSU Faculty Senate Information Page	http://www.ngcsu.edu/academic/senate/index.shtml
8		Bylaws of the NGCSU Faculty Senate, Article VII, Committees	http://www.ngcsu.edu/academic/senate/Bylaws/Bylaws_Rev_10-13-05.htm
9		Board of Regents Homeland Security Information	http://www.usg.edu/homelandsecurity/
10		Emergency Action Plan	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/ngcsu_docs_5.htm#em_plan