

CAMPUS SECURITY PROJECT PROPOSAL

Making the University of Belize Safe for all Students and Staff



Virianie Cruz

Shanique Saldano

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposal was created to offer detailed information on how to improve Campus Security on the three main Campuses of the University of Belize. These campuses include the Education and Business Campus in Belize and the Belmopan Campus. Due to the increase of crimes committed against fellow students and staff, in and around the campuses, the University of Belize is no longer being seen as a safe teaching environment for persons interested in attending the University. Hence the goal of Team Ares through this proposal will be to convince the University of Belize to implement stronger security measures to protect all its students from all its main campuses. The proposal will outline specific ways in which the University of Belize can enhance and strengthen the security on each individual main Campus. In the first section, being the problem section, we will provide a brief background, outline the history of the problem, explain the project and the scope, and point out the needs and consequences of the project. In the second section, being the solution section, we will outline the solutions, including information on the processes, budgeting, evaluation of the project and give our recommendations and conclusions. The main purpose of creating this project proposal is for the safety and protection of all students and staff who are a part of the University of Belize family.

While the University of Belize does currently have security measures on each campus, the security is not enough for its increasing students and staff population. The number of security personnel is one major problem, as according to security personnel currently working at the University, only two guards are posted at each campus. Each Campus individual main campus is extremely large making it impossible for two guards to thoroughly survey the entire campus and much less defend themselves against criminals as they don't carry any type of firearm. Team Ares proposes that stronger security measures be implemented to include an increase in security personnel at each Campus, installation of security cameras at different vantage points at each campus and that the Education Campus build a concrete fence around the school as the current fence is very deteriorated and easily accessible to criminals, this will make it much safer for students and staff.

After taking all expenses into account, team Ares realized that this project required a huge budget of \$38,040 for the 3 main campuses put together. Individually Belize Education Campus required a budget of \$25, 870. Belize Business Campus required a budget of \$5,870 and the Belmopan Campus required a budget of \$6,300. However, since this project also affects each individual student and staff we could not expect the university to cover all the costs on its own. Therefore, Team Ares has proposed that students take on most of the cost through an extra fee being added to the semester bill, as it does affect our safety and we can contribute to the future safety of other students to come.

The students and staff of the University of Belize no longer feel safe. As their learning Environment which is supposed to be safe is now plagued with crime. Making it more difficult for students to go to their classes safely. The University as well as students need to work together to better the security and make it safe to learn once more.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In August 2000, the Government of Belize successfully merged five tertiary institutions, namely the Belize College of Agriculture, the Belize School of Nursing, the Belize Teachers' College, the Belize Technical College, and the University College of Belize into The University of Belize. The University was formed with an aim to provide research and learning that would be relevant to the needs of Belize. The University of Belize has established its main campus in Belmopan with other locations in Belize City, Central Farm and Punta Gorda. Belize City holds three subsequent campuses, The Education, The business and the ITVET Vet campus at separate locations. The Belize City campuses accommodates students from across the districts who either commute daily or maintain residency in the city.

1.2 History of the problem

Although the university of Belize campuses are equipped with security personnel and a security booth, the crime rate in the country has increased significantly, and it is clear that crimes against UB students are escalating. In 2013, Dwayne Moody journalist for Channel news 5 reported that fourteen students were attacked by six armed robbers at the University of Belize, Belmopan Campus. The group of mostly foreign exchange students were said to have been in their dorms when masked men armed with nine millimeter handguns and point thirty-eight revolvers and shotguns, attacked them just before nine o'clock. The frightened students were then bounded and ordered to lie on the floor as the robbers went through the dorms and stole all their valuables and got away. This theft is the biggest example of poor campus security, and students are constantly voicing their concerns regarding this issue.

In more recent attacks, on November 2nd of 2018 the then deputy commissioner of police, Chester Williams, commented on the department's concern with the increased robberies occurring on the north side of the city. Two weeks after this report, on November 19, 2018, the University's Business campus was attacked by armed robbers who entered the campus from the back of the building, which is accessible by the unsecured waterfront, and held security officers at gunpoint. Moreover, this current semester saw four incidents where students were robbed of cellphones, cash or laptops near campuses.

The number of attacks on the institutions and the students have become frequent; consequently, threatening the safety of both the students as well as other members of faculty and staff. This year, the crime prevailing in the country made a direct impact on the University as it lost two promising students to gun violence. Moreover, robbers now frequently target students as they move across campuses. According to The University of Belize Act, Chapter 37, the university is required to "respect the dignity of the human person to pursue knowledge in an environment based on merit, ability, integrity...". As a result, the university must ensure that students receive adequate and quality level of security when on campus.

1.3 The Project

Each campus has one security booth located at the main entrance with only have two security officers on guard per shift. The officers contact each other through the use of citizens' band radio (CB) and are contacted by administration through their extension line. The security booth does not have a direct line to the police department, fire department or other emergency contacts. The

campus security officers carry no form of defense weapons except for a baton which is usually left in the booth. Additionally, I.D checks are not regulatory upheld, allowing any individual access to the grounds.

The education campus is secured by a partially torn down wire fence that can easily permit entrance. The campus has only two security guards who cannot monitor the various access points to the campus; this leaves the campus boundary unsecured and access free. Classrooms are segregated by buildings and require proper lighting for the evening classes. The Corridor which leads to the teacher's office is unmonitored and isolated and leaves the staff members in that office vulnerable to any intruder. Moreover the classrooms are spread out across buildings making it difficult for security officers to properly patrol the campus.

The Business campus is encompassed by tall trees and bushes that are not secured; moreover, the building in the far back is directly in front of the sea with no security features, giving unwelcome individuals an easy access. The classrooms which are also on that building are easily accessed through the tall trees that surround it. The administration office, with mainly female employees, carry no form of security feature although there is an accounts office upstairs. For classes in the night, some students are fearful walking from the back building to the front of the campus because it is dark and not regularly patrolled.

1.4 The Scope

This project will consist of identifying the weakness of each individual main University of Belize Campus in reference to the level of security they have and then to develop ways of strengthening each. In order to strengthen the security at Belize Education Campus, at least four new security personnel would need to be hired and one set of 8 security cameras installed. Furthermore, an eight feet high concrete fence would be built around the entire campus. This is to keep criminals from being able to enter the campus. To strengthen the security at Belize Business Campus, at least four new security personnel would need to be hired and one set of 8 security cameras installed. Also to strengthen the security at the Belmopan Campus, at least six new security personnel would need to be hired and one set of 8 security cameras installed. For all three campuses I.D checks would need to be conducted at all times and police would need to frequently patrol the area surrounding the campuses.

1.5 Need for the Project

Campus Security is the only means that students and staff have of keeping safe; therefore, applying stronger security measures should be given primary importance. Students and staff depend on these security measures as it allows students to not only be safe but it also gives them peace of mind. It allows them to be able to concentrate more on school work rather than having to continuously worry if someone is waiting to assault, abduct or maybe even kill them. With the security team at the University of Belize comprised of only two officers which provides little defense against criminals, students fear that someone will forcefully take from them the very tools which are required to accomplish tasks assigned by professors. Hence it is very important that the University maintain a safe and sound learning environment for students.

Furthermore, maintaining excellent Campus Security creates a very positive image of the University. It demonstrates to future students that the University of Belize is entirely committed

to students' wellbeing, and that it is definitely the University to attend. The security measures implemented by the University itself needs extensive revision and updates, hence it is our duty to remind the University we are important and that they should create better measures to keep us safe from criminals that roam our campuses.

1.6 Consequence of Not Proceeding with the Project

If leaders of the University of Belize continue to ignore this vital project, definitely with the crime rate in Belize rising yearly, the consequences to this non active decision will result in the following crisis:

- Theft against students and staff will increase
- Human traffickers will find it easy to abduct young men and women walking the route to and from the University.
- With no one around or nothing in place to protect students' criminals will become bolder and theft may escalate to violation of women or fatal injuries to members of the University.
- The negative reports from media and the traumatic experiences from students and staff will cause students to fear going to the University and would not attract new students
- With the decrease of students attending the University, the University would find itself facing financial difficulties.

1.7 Objective Criteria

The implementation of new safety policies for the University of Belize's Campuses, including installation of cameras, hiring of additional security officers and a systematic I.D check, must meet the following objectives.

- To respect and maintain each individual's right to privacy.
- To monitor students by surveillance following the legal guidelines.
- To maintain the credibility and standards of the University.
- To provide students with a safe environment that fosters learning.
- To provide adequate security assistance to students.
- To secure and defend the barriers of the campuses against trespassers.
- To maintain control over entrances and exits on the campus.

2. SOLUTION OVERVIEW

The current security measures at the University's campuses require an update to enhance its features. There are only two security guards on duty per shift, neither of whom carry security equipment. Moreover, the campuses are easily accessible to trespassers as the premises are being inadequately monitored. The use of surveillance cameras on campuses are becoming widely popular as they offer security and monitor without a person being physically present. Through a study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Justice Department, it was conveyed that in 2013-2014 more than 75% of schools had surveillance cameras and 90% of these felt that it gave them more controlled access into schools.

2.1 Methodology

The information used to carry out this research were collected from both primary and secondary sources. Face to face interviews with students, campus security guards, teachers and professional security firms were conducted to extract pertinent information. Moreover, information was also recovered from online sources which included past campus safety research from other international colleges, as well as related incidents on campus, that were reported to the local media houses.

2.2 Installation of surveillance cameras on campuses

Proper installation of security cameras on school campus provides additional measures of safety for students. It can aid in detecting burglars, trespassing, and even disorderly conduct between students. The cameras can also offer aid to the specific vulnerabilities of each campus.

Education Campus

The Education Campus is fully enclosed by a wired fence with a security booth located at the entrance of the compound. A camera can be placed near the security booth to survey persons entering and exiting the campus especially when there are no security guards present at their station. Cameras can also be angled to have direct footage of the school's boundary as a security measure against the partially torn down fence, which can easily be climbed. The corridor leading to the teacher's office, would also require surveillance to ensure members of staff are aware of who is entering their office.

Business Campus

The Business campus is surrounded by mangroves, trees and the strip of river behind the Classrooms located to the far back. It would be essential to have a camera placed to the back of the building, near the water access, to provide visual aid to the security team. Cameras can also be placed near the classrooms that are accessible through the tall trees, as well as along the path from the classrooms in the back to the administration building in the front. Video coverage would also be needed at the security booth to cover the entrance and exit of the campus and in the administration building where the accounts office is located.

Phase 1: A security identification card system must be set in place to ensure that students can only enter the campus if they are wearing their valid student identification card. Having a check for student's I.D upon entering the premise provides an additional security feature. This also ensure that security officers are aware of who is entering the campus, it gives them the chance to deny sketchy individuals and it also allows them to become more familiar with students. Saint John's Junior College has an identification card check set in place upon entering their campus. This security feature has been a practice for the school for over a year and has yielded benefits. This system gives their administration the ability to monitor students entering the campus even if they are mobile and have a direct say on who can enter the premise. The cost of student's I.D are included in the semester fees; hence, no additional cost would be required for phase 1.

Phase 2: Employment of an additional security guard for each campus to ensure the campuses are being monitored by a suitable number of officers. The Business and Education campuses should be given additional security officer as the size of the campuses and the day to day traffic of students require additional security presence and aid. Presence of security officers are vital

and should not be underestimated. According to Lee University in United States, Tennessee, campus security currently employs 11 officers who are on guard 24/7. These officers provide security as they patrol the campus on foot as well as using patrol vehicles. Our University can locate additional security personnel through local security companies or through vacancy advertisements. Additional security requires additional security budget as officers are paid approximately \$200.00 per week.

Phase 3: Installation of surveillance cameras should be done on campuses. The campuses would be carefully inspected and surveyed to determine the positioning of the cameras and identify the most effective locations for them. Technicians will begin planting necessary wires for connectivity and begin installation of cameras. After installation of cameras is complete, the devices will be set up and tested for approval. Authorized personnel will be given access to the camera settings where they can monitor cameras or make changes.

2.3 Sponsorship:

Ministry of Education

The University of Belize is directed under the supervision of the government. It is the only tertiary institution within the country that is not privatized. If there is a growing concern for the safety of students on campus, the Ministry of Education may have an interest in giving assistance.

Security firm

The purchasing and installment of the surveillance cameras can be accomplished through the various existing security firms specifically Champion Security and AAA Security. These firms can be asked to assist in sponsorship through a discounted bill or donations of equipment.

Alumni's

The university has seen numerous graduates since its establishment. These past students can assist with the legacy of their alma mater through financial assistance or technical knowledge on cameras and their installations.

Current students

The current prospective graduates can also assist in sponsorship through methods of organized fundraisers. The concern for safety on campuses directly impacts the current students; as a result, these same students can assist in the additional security features that will provide them with more security and protection.

The Business Community

Sponsorship can also be acquired from both private and public businesses. The university has gotten assistance in the past such as Smart sponsoring the student lounge on campus or Digicel adopting classrooms for renovation.

2.4 Implementation

Stage 1: The University Of Belize must send out a letter to all students detailing the implementation of a student I.D security check upon entering the campus. The letter must emphasize to students the need to always have in possession their I.D to be able to access the

compound. The Administration must also ensure that the I.D system is being enforced by the security officers 24/7. Notices should also be given to the public that access to the campuses will not be granted without proper identification to ensure everyone is aware of the new system. The University would thereafter have some level of control over who is entering the campus.

Stage 2: Qualified and suitable security officers should be hired to join the existing security teams at each campus. After selecting qualified personnel, each new security officer will be given campus safety policies and regulations. New security measures must be emphasized to officers to ensure everyone has the same objectives. Security guards can now better rotate their tasks to ensure an officer is always present at the booth and an officer is always available to patrol the campus. This can give the security team better coverage over the campus and more flexibility to perform better.

Stage 3: Cameras will be installed to give administration and security team a better coverage of the entire campus. Cameras should be installed at their appropriate location and signs must be placed on notice to inform every one of their presence. An authorized person should be delegated to keep watch of surveillance footage, that they may alert officers or authorities when there is a distress. Only authorized persons should be allowed to view or access camera footage. It should be made aware to the public that the campuses are now under surveillance and necessary measures should be set in place to ensure preservation and maintenance of surveillance equipment.

2.5 Budget of the Solution

The Budget for this project was prepared by Team Ares. The budget was segregated into the three different main campuses with information gathered by the campus security, former project plan created by team Hermes, and on the advice of Luciano Cruz, IT working with courts Belize for over 10 years.

Itemized particulars in the budget that follows are explained below:

More Security Personnel

According to First Security (n.d), “Having campus security in place in the form of patrolling private security guards helps to address issues beyond just gun violence on college campuses. Patrolling security guards would be able to act as a deterrent to assaults, as well as will be able to respond right away to any reports or to even stop the act as it is occurring”. Hence it is very important to have sufficient security personnel in order to more efficiently patrol each campus and not only protect students from violence but also from sexual assaults committed by other students. It is also important to have security at the entrance of each campus at all-times checking I. D’S and individuals entering and exiting the campus.

Fence at Belize Education Campus

According to Warefence (2017), “Without proper fencing, a school is left open to kidnappers, sexual predators and violent assaults”. The University of Belize Education Campus fencing is very weak as the fence is practically falling apart. This makes this Campus very vulnerable to criminal attacks inside the Campus itself, hence building a concrete fence at this campus is extremely vital for the safety of students and staff.

Security Cameras

According to One Source Security(n.d.). “Installing video surveillance in plain sight in schools can deter a crime before it happens, whether it is theft, vandalism, bullying, fighting or sexual harassment. Most criminals prefer an easy target where their image will not be captured on camera. If a student gets robbed or hurt on school property, a video clip can be pulled from the recording to corroborate or contradict a story.” Therefore, by installing security cameras at different vantage points in and around each individual Campus it will make it intimidating for criminals to attempt any type of criminal activity against students and staff. Furthermore, it will aid to identify and respond quickly to real time crime against students and staff and will also aid to identify culprits that commit crimes captured on security cameras.

University of Belize Security Upgrade Budget		
Business Campus- Belize		
Project Item	Quantity	Total Cost
Security Personnel	4 persons @ \$800 Monthly	\$ 3,200.00
Security Cameras	1 Set of 8 Security Cameras @\$1,500	\$ 1,500.00
	installation and material of Security Cameras	\$ 1,170.00
Total Cost		\$ 5,870.00
Education Campus- Belize		
Project Item	Quantity	Total Cost
Security Personnel	4 persons @ \$800 Monthly	\$ 3,200.00
Security Cameras	1 Set of 8 Security Cameras @\$1,500	\$ 1,500.00
	installation and material of Security Cameras	\$ 1,170.00
Construction of Fence	Material and Labor	\$ 20,000.00
Total Cost		\$ 25,870.00
Belmopan Campus		
Project Item	Quantity	Total Cost
Security Personnel	6 persons @ \$800 Monthly	\$ 4,800.00
Security Cameras	1 Set of 8 Security Cameras @\$1,500	\$ 1,500.00
	installation and material of Security Cameras	\$ 1,170.00
Total Cost		\$ 6,300.00
Total for the 3 Campuses:		\$ 38,040.00

2.6 Personnel and Qualification

Team Ares is qualified for this project because as students of the University of Belize, we have direct knowledge and experience concerning the rise in crime against our fellow students. Also our business background combined with the assistance of our professor allows us to create the actual project document.

The results of this project concerns us as it directly affects our well-being and hence the improvement of campus security. This has inspired us to analyze carefully all probable ways in which to improve our security at campus.

Virianie Cruz

I have obtained my Associate's Degree in Business Science and am presently pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Business Accounting. The majors I took while pursuing my Associates Degree as well as my Bachelor's Degree, have helped me to create the proposal presented. Specifically, these course have prepared me to create the body of the document and the presentation and style of the document as I have always had an interest in writing. Also my accounting background is an asset in preparing the Budget section of this project.

Shanique Saldano

I graduated from Wesley College in 2013 after which I attended St John's Junior College and graduated with an associate's degree in History. In pursuing this degree, we were tasked with numerous research assignments that allowed us to develop our ideas and theories in our essays. I believe this has aided me in this research proposal as it has given me a background in researching information for development. I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in Tourism Management and it has allowed me to not only broaden my knowledge but also to begin applying that knowledge to everyday practices. I believe my educational journey has given me the necessary background to prepare this proposal.

2.7 Evaluation of Project

Our proposed solution will solve the problem of the rising crime which students and staff of the University of Belize encounter due to poor Campus Security.

Implementing stronger security measures will create a safer environment for our University students and staff. Students and staff will feel safe and well protected while travelling on and from campus to campus.

Short term benefits of implementing stronger campus security measures include the following:

- Will enhance the appeal of the University
- Will demonstrate the university's interest in the well-being of students and staff

Long term benefits of implementing stronger campus security measures include the following:

- The implementation of strict security policies will create a safer learning environment for students and staff
- The increase of Campus Security personnel will serve to better protect students and staff
- The construction of a new fence will serve to keep intruders out

- The installation of Video Cameras will allow to identify criminals
- The continuous I.D checks will prevent criminals from obtaining access into the campus
- The increase of Police patrol around the Campus will frighten criminals from attempting any criminal activity around the campus.

2.8 Conclusion/ Recommendation

Team Ares proposes that the University of Belize build collaboration with the Police department to make frequent patrols around the University Campuses We recommend that cameras be placed around the Campuses so as to monitor any unlawful movements against students and staff. This would also aid to identify culprits of crimes so that it may serve as evidence in the apprehension of criminals. We suggest that more security officers be hired and I.D Checks be conducted so as to better monitor persons coming in to the University. Also we urge our University leaders to find ways to raise funds so as to build high concrete fences all around the Campuses, and keep intruders out. Furthermore, we advise the University to offer self-defense classes so as to prepare students and staff to be able to defend themselves if they are ever attacked.

Each University of Belize Campus has its own set of security weaknesses, but our research shows that the overall budget needed to improve security on all 3 campuses was an estimated total of \$38, 040 but added on extra unexpected expenses we conclude a budget of \$42,000 would suffice. Also to conclude security personnel would become a fixed monthly salary hence each campus would need to be able to supplement this expense every month. This expense would probably be needed to be added to students' fee, as we must also aid management and find ways to raise funds to maintain a safe environment for all University of Belize Students.

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