

UNC Tomorrow – Disaster Resistant University Council

1. **Existing programs, curricula, research and scholarship activities, and public service activities in your area that respond to specific needs of the region or state and how those programs are organized and delivered.**

The Disaster Resistant University Council (DRU Council) responds to specific needs of the region and state as demonstrated below.

Background

The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to serving the region with the best in teaching and research. Being located in a coastal setting allows us to be one of the premier institutions performing coastal research. However, this setting also places us at risk to encountering natural disasters such as hurricanes and nor'easters.

UNCW is such a key member of the region being the only public university within 90 miles and the only research university within 125 miles. In the event we had an extended interruption of our services as a result of a disaster, it would devastate southeastern North Carolina. We provide jobs for the region, and educate scientists, businessmen, nurses and teachers for the region. The protection of our students, research, faculty and staff as well as our facilities remains a premier value of UNCW. Therefore, the principles of disaster resistance and hazard mitigation are integral to the performance of our mission.

Fostering Internal and External Relationships

Over the past years, UNCW has made a conscious effort to foster relationships with county and state emergency management and other government officials. UNCW maintains constant contact with both the New Hanover County Department of Emergency Management and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and keeps up membership in community committees such as the Local Emergency Planning Committee. UNCW representatives also regularly participate in county, state, and federal training and exercises including:

- Emergency Management Institute Training
 - Integrated Emergency Management Course—Consequences of Terrorism Customized for New Hanover County, NC
 - Integrated Emergency Management Course—All Hazards Preparedness and Response
 - Integrated Emergency Management Course—Hurricane: Preparedness and Response
 - Integrated Emergency Management Course—Hurricane: Recovery and Mitigation
- Bi-annual Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant Response Exercise
 - UNCW is a field monitoring and decontamination station
- New Hanover County Hurricane Response Drill
- Wilmington Safety and Health School
- Area Health Education Center: Community Response to Disaster/Terrorism
- Hurrex03 Multi State Hurricane Exercise in cooperation with the U.S. Army

- North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Training
 - Principles of Emergency Management
 - New Coordinator Workshop
- FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Courses
- Certified Emergency Manager (in progress)
- Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross Classroom Instruction
 - Adult/Child/Infant CPR and AED
 - Workplace Safety
 - Blood-borne Pathogens Training
 - CPR for the Professional Rescuer
 - Fundamentals of Instructor Training

Participating in training and exercises has enabled UNCW to establish a good relationship with state and county officials and evoked coordination activities which in turn increase disaster resistance at UNCW.

- A hurricane exercise was conducted on July 21, 2005, at UNCW. This exercise focused on recovery from a Category 4 hurricane. UNCW emergency personnel, *local emergency management personnel, and state emergency personnel* attended the exercise.

Outreach

- The Emergency Management Coordinator attended the UW Risk Symposium and gave two presentations. One presentation discussed hurricane preparedness and one presentation discussed becoming a StormReady University. The EM Coordinator also provided outreach through the distribution of materials to other universities in attendance and offering information to the DRUCA program.
- All of the DRU Conference presentations and materials have been put on a web site so that universities can access the information.
- All of the UNC System schools were invited to attend the DRU Conference in hopes to provide outreach to our fellow UNC schools.
- UNCW EH&S distributes disaster resistant information at New Student Orientations throughout the month of June and in residence halls for residential students returning in August. UNCW EH&S has also distributed disaster resistant information to faculty and staff.
- A disaster preparedness training session was conducted for UNCW faculty and staff on August 25, 2005.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator attended a symposium for North Carolina HBCUs on October 18, 2005 and gave a presentation to the HBCUs entitled “Building an Emergency Management Team.” The presentation was well received.
- UNCW has provided emergency plans and templates to UNC Asheville and UNC Pembroke for use in their planning process.
- A Roundtable discussion between all 16 UNC universities took place on October 13th. UNCW was involved in the planning process for this Roundtable. UNCW also facilitated a tabletop exercise for the Roundtable.

- UNCW facilitated an emergency exercise for James Sprunt Community College on October 20, 2006.

Conferences

- The DRU Conference, hosted by UNCW, was held May 19-20 of 2005. The two day conference consisted of nine speeches, three panel discussions, and four workshops. Eighty participants came from 40 colleges and universities across the country. The conference was a huge success and many participants gave excellent evaluations.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator attended the International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Phoenix, AZ from November 13-16, 2005.

Internships

Internships demonstrate UNCW's commitment to connecting "theory and practice through service learning programs that enrich academic coursework and serve the region."¹ Exemplary emergency management practices have become a continuing goal of coastal North Carolina communities and the state of North Carolina as a whole. As such, UNCW EM has employed two interns from the graduate Public Administration degree (Emergency Management and Coastal Management concentrations) and one intern in undergraduate Environmental Science over the last two year period to help with education, outreach, and multi-agency exercises. Additional funding is needed to continue this effort.

2. **How your unit identifies the current and future needs of the region or state, how those needs are reflected and prioritized in your planning process, how you define and communicate with external stakeholders, and how you assess, measure, and communicate the impact of your unit on the region and the state**

The DRU Council identifies the current and future needs of UNCW's disaster resistance initiatives. The Emergency Management/DRU Coordinator conducts regular meetings of the DRU council to discuss DRU initiatives and possible projects. Membership encompasses university officials and also includes county, state, and UNC System representatives for additional input and suggestions. The DRU Council monitors progress of DRU projects and makes major decisions about the projects when necessary. The DRU council will also keep a forward looking perspective and brainstorm on projects that could be completed in the future as well as help foster a disaster resistant culture throughout the UNCW community.

Current projects being reviewed by the DRU Council are the UNCW Vulnerability Assessment and UNCW's Mitigation Goals and Strategies.

¹ UNCW Strategic Plan, Goal V, Objective 3

UNC Tomorrow – Public Transportation

- 1. Existing programs, curricula, research and scholarship activities, and public service activities in your area that respond to specific needs of the region or state and how those programs are organized and delivered.**

For nearly a decade, the University of North Carolina Wilmington has contracted with the Wilmington Transit Authority (WTA) to operate shuttle buses for the benefit of UNCW students. The shuttle buses began operating between the UNCW campus and apartment complexes with large student populations. The primary purpose of the agreement was to ease traffic congestion and parking concerns on campus. During this time, the University instituted a one-mile radius rule which prohibits students living within the one mile radius to purchase a parking permit for campus. This rule is intended to promote alternative forms of transportation, such as the shuttle, bicycling and walking.

Other measures by the university to reduce traffic include the establishment of parking zones on campus. By restricting students to a particular zone, the policy discourages the return to vehicles throughout the day, thus minimizing the number of vehicle trips by students and thus the traffic on nearby congested roadways. This has been evidenced by increased interaction on campus during the day. Today, nearly 1,500 students park in a park and ride lot away from the main campus and shuttle to campus.

The combined effect of the one-mile radius rule and the parking zones have resulted in shuttle rider-ship of 119,000 rides from mid-August to October 2006, for an average of 47,735 rides per month. This means an approximate 5,683 fewer cars came onto campus during each week in fall 2006.

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UNCW is a member of the Transportation Demand Management Employer Group. As a member along with Corning, City of Wilmington, NCDOT-Division 3, New Hanover County, New Hanover County Schools-Administration, GE, New Hanover Health Network, UNCW has participated in programs such as The Cape Fear Breeze program, funded by the NC Department of Transportation and the City of Wilmington, which is designed to develop more transportation choices and increase awareness of those that already exist. A popular program at UNCW is Bike to Work Week. In 2005, UNCW had the largest number of participants in Bike to Work Week.