Robot Security on Our Campuses: A Briefing on the Undaunted Proposal

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A word before we begin

When a mother drops her daughter off at Spelman, or a father hugs his son goodbye at Morehouse, they are handing us the most precious thing they have. They are trusting us. And that trust is not kept by one tool or one company. It is kept by people who plan ahead.

Keeping our students safe takes two things: stopping harm before it happens, and being able to prove the truth when it does. New technology can help with both. But our job is to ask the hard questions first, so that no family ever has to ask them of us later.

This report is offered in that spirit. It is not a yes and it is not a no. It is the homework we owe our students before we decide.

Recommendation

Do not sign with Undaunted yet. Approve four steps that let the AUC decide on evidence instead of a sales deck.

1. **Issue the vendor questionnaire.** Send the attached 51-item form to Undaunted and require written, signed answers returned to the AUC Consortium.
2. **Adopt an evidence and privacy policy first.** Put in writing who owns campus video, how long it is kept, and who it may be shared with, before any vendor connects to our cameras.
3. **Authorize a limited pilot only if the answers hold up.** One shared space, 90 days, with measures agreed in advance.
4. **Hold every vendor to the same standard.** Use the same questionnaire for any company offering robotic or remotely monitored security.

Decision requested: approval of these four steps, and a response deadline for the vendor.

What Undaunted is offering

Undaunted proposes a three-part service: camera integration, live human monitoring, and human-controlled robots sent to deter activity on site. Everything below comes from their partnership overview deck.

Item	What their deck says
Integration	Its Mission Control team connects to the property's existing camera system for 24/7 remote oversight.
Detection	Human specialists watch the feeds in real time for behaviors the vendor treats as early signs of crime.
Deployment	A human-controlled robot dog or rover is sent to greet the person on site.
Stated targets	Loitering, curfew enforcement, drug activity, break-ins, vandalism, violent crime
Reporting	A written overnight report per property, with a time-stamped activity log and items flagged for review
Footprint today	60 active sites and 135 robots, at apartment, construction and retail properties
Onboarding	2 to 4 weeks: site walk for charging locations, power to charging stations, camera login access and a camera map, first payment

What Undaunted said at the demo

At the demo on Friday, November 13, 2026, Undaunted's sales representative said the company is open to three community-facing steps that do not appear in its deck.

What they said they are open to	Why it matters on campus	What to get in writing
Letting the campuses decorate the charging stations	Makes the equipment feel like part of the campus, not something imposed on it	Who pays, and any limits on design or placement
Community meet and greets with the robots	Lets students and employees see, question and get comfortable with the robots before they patrol	How many events, who staffs them, and whether they happen before launch
Piloting a program where students can call a robot for an escort	Turns the robot from something that watches students into a service for them. Two uses were discussed: students returning to campus late, and a response when an alert button is pressed	How a student requests one, hours, coverage area, response time, what is recorded during an escort, and cost

These are encouraging signs. A vendor willing to meet students where they are is a vendor worth a second conversation. But a willingness spoken in a demo is not yet a commitment. Each one should be confirmed in writing and built into the pilot terms.

Cost options

Undaunted prices by robot count plus hours of coverage: $10,000 per robot per year, plus $20,000, $30,000 or $60,000 for 8, 12 or 24 hours a day.

Annual cost by coverage	2 robots	3 robots	4 robots	5 robots
8 hours a day	$40,000	$50,000	$60,000	$70,000
12 hours a day	$50,000	$60,000	$70,000	$80,000
24 hours a day	$80,000	$90,000	$100,000	$110,000

Three points for decision makers:

- **This is per property, not per consortium.** The deck gives no price for four institutions or for shared spaces. Ask for an AUC quote.
- **A pilot has no listed price.** Two robots at 12 hours a day for 90 days would be about $12,500 if the $50,000 annual rate were prorated. That figure is our arithmetic, not a vendor quote.
- **Some costs are not in the deck.** Electrical work for charging stations, any camera or network upgrades, staff time for oversight, and legal review all fall on the institution.

For comparison, the vendor's own figures for 24/7 coverage are $215,000 for unarmed guards, $350,000 for armed guards, and $625,000 for off-duty police. We have not verified those against AUC contracts.

Reported results and how to read them

The vendor reports large drops in crime and cost at four Atlanta-area residential sites. None is a campus, and none has been independently checked.

Site	Go-live	What the vendor reports	Source the vendor cites
445 Cleveland	April 2025	Monthly averages: residential burglaries 1.08 to 0; parking area theft 1.3 to 0.6; motor vehicle theft 0.44 to 0.07; firearm incidents 0.39 to 0.14	Atlanta Police incident records
Fields at Peachtree Corners	February 2, 2026	Overall crime down 72%; violent crime and parking theft down 100%; firearm incidents down 61%; residential burglary down 51%	Gwinnett County incident records
Columbia Residential, 3 clusters	Not stated	Annual security cost from $2.09 million to $1.10 million, a 47% reduction	Vendor analysis
2000 Oasis Apartments	May 2025	Occupancy from 40% to 92%; $40,000 annual security savings	Vendor analysis

Four cautions on the numbers:

- **The counts are small.** One burglary a month dropping to zero is a 100% decline. A few incidents either way would change the percentage sharply.
- **There is no comparison site.** Without one, we cannot separate the robots' effect from area-wide crime trends.
- **One site compares a partial year to full years.** The Peachtree Corners chart marks 2026 as February through October only.
- **The outcomes are landlord outcomes.** Occupancy, rent and asset value do not translate to a college campus.

Gaps for a campus deployment

The deck is strong on deterrence and savings, and silent on seven things a campus police department must know.

Gap	What the deck shows	Why it matters on campus
Evidence	No statement on who owns footage, how long it is kept, or how it is handed over	Footage may be needed for prosecution and for student conduct cases
Camera access	Onboarding requires camera login access and a camera map	A third party would hold credentials to our camera network
Behavior criteria	Specialists watch for "unwanted behaviors"; the target list starts with loitering and curfew enforcement	Students gather outdoors at all hours; the criteria must be ours to set
Robot conduct	A customer testimonial praises robots that approach groups, question them, and follow people home	We need written rules for how a robot may engage a student
Coverage hours	A property manager's email in the deck says residents learned the night patrol routine and problems moved to daytime	Part-time coverage may move activity instead of stopping it
Campus experience	Every case study is an apartment community	No evidence yet that the model fits higher education
Liability	Not addressed	Injury, property damage and complaints need a named owner

Policy grounding

Three frameworks set the bar any security vendor must clear on our campuses. This section is a planning guide, not legal advice; counsel should confirm each point.

Framework	What it asks of us	What it means for this decision
Clery Act	Keep a daily crime log open to the public, with new reports added within two business days. Issue a timely warning when a covered crime poses a serious or ongoing threat.	Vendor reports must reach campus police fast, with the nature, date, time and general location of each incident. An overnight summary may be too slow for an incident in progress.
FERPA	Records a campus law enforcement unit creates and maintains for a law enforcement purpose are not education records. A copy given to another office, such as student conduct, may become one.	Campus police should be the custodian of all footage. The contract must say vendor-held video is ours, and counsel should advise on footage a vendor creates.
21st Century Policing pillars	Build trust and legitimacy, set policy and oversight, use technology with care, police with the community, train well, and protect officer wellness.	See the list below.

How the six pillars apply:

- **Trust and legitimacy:** tell students and faculty before a robot arrives, and explain what it records.
- **Policy and oversight:** write the evidence and privacy policy before deployment, and audit who views our cameras.
- **Technology:** judge the tool against our policy, not the other way around.
- **Community policing:** give students a voice in the pilot measures and a clear way to file a complaint.
- **Training:** train officers and dispatchers on the handoff from vendor to campus police.
- **Officer wellness:** use robots to support our officers on overnight and high-risk checks, not to replace them.

Legitimacy Layer assessment (preliminary)

Scored against the five S.T.E.E.R. steps, Undaunted has no step at Green yet, because the documents that would earn Green have not been provided.

The Legitimacy Layer scores a technology on trust and legitimacy, not only on technical performance. Each step is rated Red (not addressed), Yellow (partly addressed) or Green (fully addressed). Missing documents are never assumed Green. This run used the vendor's deck, its statements at the November 13 demo, and six source guides from the campus policing field, listed below. It stays preliminary until the contract, service level agreement and training materials are in hand.

Step	Pillar	Score	Basis
Situate	Trust and legitimacy	Red	No documented community engagement step or public explanation. Meet and greets and decorated charging stations were offered verbally and would raise this score once in writing.
Tension-test	Policy and oversight	Red	No information on bias safeguards, an independent review path for errors, the cloud provider, uptime, or outage handling.
Establish	Technology	Red	No plain-language use policy and no named accountable owner. This step is the AUC's to complete before deployment.
Evidence	Training	Yellow	Results cite police incident records, but only at residential sites. Onboarding lists no training for campus officers or dispatchers.
Roll out and review	Community policing and officer wellness	Yellow	Overnight reports run one way, to management. No feedback channel for students or officers and no scheduled review date.

Six source guides set the standard for this evaluation. Each was written by or for campus police leaders, and three of the six come out of HBCU forums and research.

Source guide	What it tells us	What it means for this vendor	Step
Police and Community Interactions on HBCU Campuses (HBCU-LEEA and NCCPS, 2016)	Emphasize protection over enforcement. Explain how surveillance video is used. Hire students as escorts. Involve students in decisions.	A target list led by loitering and curfew enforcement points the wrong way; the escort service points the right way. Robot escorts should work alongside student escorts, not replace them.	Situate
Managing Campus Protests and Demonstrations at HBCUs (NCCPS, 2018)	HBCU campuses are centers of activism and dissent. Campus police protect the right to assemble.	The deck has no protocol for protests. We need written rules for what operators and robots do, and do not record, during a lawful assembly.	Tension-test
Engaging College Students in 21st Century Law Enforcement (Howard University and COPS Office, 2021)	Give young people a seat at the table. Be transparent. Train officers in cultural competence. Use technology to reach students.	Student leaders should help design the pilot. Remote operators who speak to our students through a robot need cultural competence training too.	Evidence; Roll out and review

Source guide	What it tells us	What it means for this vendor	Step
The Value of Campus Public Safety Agencies (IACLEA)	Campus police work only with the consent of the community. Contract services bring a loss of ownership and pride. Weigh new technology by savings, return, and upkeep cost. Count escorts as a core service.	Robots should support our officers, not stand in for them. Ask for maintenance and replacement costs. Count robot escorts in our service numbers.	Tension-test
Municipal and Campus Police: Strategies for Working Together (PERF, 2021)	Community policing is a natural fit on campus, including escorts after dark. Campus and city police should plan and train together. Clark Atlanta University Police took part in this study.	The pilot area borders city streets. Atlanta Police should know the robots are there, how footage requests work, and who to call.	Roll out and review
Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting (U.S. Department of Education, 2016)	A contracted security company must share documentation of all incidents. People who monitor access or escort students can be campus security authorities. The crime log is updated within two business days.	The contract must require full incident records. Counsel should decide whether vendor operators are campus security authorities who need Clery training.	Establish; Evidence

One caution on the last guide: the Department of Education rescinded the 2016 Handbook in October 2020 and replaced it with a shorter Clery Act Appendix. The law and regulations did not change, so the Handbook remains a useful reference, but counsel should confirm each point against current guidance.

The source guides also surfaced three gaps the vendor's deck and our first review did not cover: a protest protocol, cultural competence training for remote operators, and the Clery status of vendor staff.

The path to Green is the same path this report recommends: written answers to the questionnaire, an AUC policy adopted before deployment, training for our people, and a review date with a real feedback channel.

The vendor questionnaire

The attached AUC Vendor Questionnaire turns each gap into written questions: nine sections, 51 items, with a signed certification.

Section	Topic	Items
1	Data ownership, storage and retention	6
2	Monitoring personnel	6
3	Behavior criteria and deployment rules	5
4	Robot capabilities, sensors and cybersecurity	8
5	Higher education experience and proof of results	5
6	Clery Act support and reporting	5
7	Evidence handoff and chain of custody	6
8	Liability, complaints and service terms	7
9	Community engagement and student services	3

Completed forms are returned to the Atlanta University Center Consortium. The form names no vendor, so it can be reused for every company the Consortium considers.

Pilot plan

If the answers hold up, test in one shared space for 90 days, with the rules and the measures written before the first robot rolls.

Element	Proposed approach
Location	One shared space, such as a parking deck or a walkway between campuses
Duration	90 days, with a review at day 45
Coverage	Decide hours from our own incident data, not a default night shift
Student escort test	Robot escorts on request for students returning to campus late, and a robot response when an alert button is pressed
Community launch	Meet and greets with the robots and campus-decorated charging stations before patrols begin
Data rules	AUC evidence and privacy policy in force; vendor camera access limited to the pilot area
Oversight	One named campus police lead; access-log review every two weeks
Exit	Right to end the pilot at any time, with all footage returned and deleted

Measures of success, agreed in advance:

- Incidents in the daily crime log for the pilot area, compared with the same 90 days last year and with a similar area without robots.
- Time from vendor detection to campus police notification.
- Share of incidents where footage was delivered in usable form with a custody record.
- Escort requests received, time from request to robot arrival, and whether students say they would use it again.
- Complaints received, and student and employee survey results at day 45 and day 90.

Decisions and next steps

Seven steps take the AUC from this report to a go or no-go. Owners and dates are for the chiefs to assign.

#	Step	Owner	Target date
1	Approve the four recommendations	AUC chiefs	
2	Send the questionnaire to Undaunted with a response deadline		
3	Draft the AUC evidence and privacy policy		
4	Develop the pilot design, including the student escort test	Felicia Ellis	
5	Review vendor answers with counsel and score them		
6	Request a written AUC pilot quote, if the answers hold up		
7	Bring the answers and pilot plan back for a go or no-go	AUC chiefs and decision makers	

Sources

- Undaunted, "Overview with AUCC Police" partnership deck, 27 slides. All vendor figures, pricing and case studies in this report come from it.
- Undaunted sales representative, statements at the demo meeting of November 13, 2026.
- HBCU-LEEA and National Center for Campus Public Safety, *A National Conversation on Police and Community Interactions on HBCU Campuses* (October 2016).
- National Center for Campus Public Safety, *Managing Campus Protests and Demonstrations at Historically Black Colleges and Universities* (September 2018).
- Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center, Howard University, *Engaging College Students in 21st Century Law Enforcement: Final Report* (COPS Office, 2021).
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, *The Value of Campus Public Safety Agencies* fact sheet.
- Police Executive Research Forum, *Municipal and Campus Police: Strategies for Working Together During Turbulent Times* (June 2021).

- U.S. Department of Education, *The Handbook for Campus Safety and Security Reporting, 2016 Edition*. Rescinded October 9, 2020; see the Department's rescission announcement.
- Clery Center: The Jeanne Clery Act, on the daily crime log, timely warnings and emergency notifications.
- UNC Wilmington: Clery Reporting Requirements, on the two-business-day crime log rule.
- U.S. Department of Education: FAQs on Photos and Videos under FERPA, on law enforcement unit records.
- Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015), for the six pillars.