

Community Safety Council Meeting
October 28, 2013
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
519 Kaneff Tower

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Minutes

In attendance: Aldo Altomare, Prakash Amarasooriya, Noël Badiou, Karanjit Bathal, Robert Castle, Tomorr Cerriku, Elize Ceschia, Chad Craig, Paul Elliot, Lorna Erwin, Despina Ikik, Mikhaela Gray, Shazia Hafiji, Matthew Harris, Craig Heron, Mandi Hickman, Joanne Huy, Debbie Kee, Patricia Lakin-Thomas, Christian Marjollet, Dimitra Markatas, Officer Ewan McDermott for Sgt. Stephen Hicks, Lesley Powell, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Ray Rogers, Catherine Salole, Elana Shugar, Steve Sicluna, Sunil Taneja, Jessica Thyriar, Raj Virk for Sheila Wilmot, Brandon Vieira, Terry Wright, Jia Xu

Regrets: John Amanatides, Kathryn Als, Aileen Ashman, Ceceil Beckford, Kathy Branton, Glenn Cumming, Isha DeCoito, Steve Dranitsaris, Ioana Gheorghiu, Paula Gowdie Rose, Debbie Hansen, Scott Jarvis, Sarah Khan, Lluvia Machuca Ruelas, Anne Moore, Rosanna Furgieuele, James Nixon, Sal Paneduro, Tka Pinnock, Helen Psathas, Dewan Rahman, Soyinka Reid, Manuel Rodriguez, Sheila Shakroni, Bob Smith, Jason Springer, Marc Wilchesky, Amber Wynne, Calvin Traynor, Marzena Tyszkiewicz, Donya Zayee

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Shoukri, welcomed the Community Safety Council members to the 1st general meeting of the academic year 2013-2014. Dr. Shoukri extended his appreciation to the Council for the dedicated work over the past year and ongoing commitment to a safer York. Dr. Shoukri stated that he reviewed and responded to the Annual Report for 2013 submitted by the Council.

Dr. Shoukri emphasized that safety is an institutional priority and it needs to be a University-wide effort. The President welcomed the Council's input and feedback as to how we can improve and encouraged the Council to continue to work collaboratively to provide opportunities for discussion and learning about safety on our campuses.

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Robert Castle welcomed those in attendance and informed the Council that he will be chairing today's meeting (the Chair, John Amanatides, is on jury duty). R. Castle

provided a brief overview of the Council's history. In 2010, the final report of a campus safety audit which had been carried out by the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) was received. The University established the Community Safety Council (CSC), the Safety Audit Implementation Committee (a standing committee of the CSC), and the Management Safety Committee. Reporting to the President, the Community Safety Council is an advisory body which focuses on safety outcomes, practices and policies and currently consists of 62 members.

2a. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND ORIENTATION

New and returning members introduced themselves. Following introductions, R. Castle shared with the Council the Chair's guidelines for safe and inclusive meetings which include:

- One person, one mind. No interrupting. One person will speak at a time.
- Agreeing as a group to be respectful of each other's feelings, and our own, and to be respectful of all cultures, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions, class backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives when speaking.
- Speaking in "I" statements: Don't tell others what to do or think as if it is a command. Instead, describe your own experience. Challenging in a respectful manner people who may make hurtful comments, remembering that such comments often come from lack of awareness or understanding. These can be genuine opportunities for personal growth.
- Guaranteeing a safe space: agreeing not to repeat personal things people say during a group meeting to others.
- Step up and step back. If we usually don't talk much, we will challenge ourselves to speak more. If we find ourselves talking more than others, we will speak less.
- Self-care and group care. Don't make assumptions about anyone's history of sexual assault or interpersonal violence. As a group, don't judge anyone who needs to step out either for a few minutes or for the remainder of the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

It was **MOVED** by R. Castle "That the minutes of **April 29, 2013** meeting be confirmed as distributed." The minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

CARRIED

4. STUDENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Established in October 2012, the CSC Student Committee focuses on sharing ideas, comments and concerns on campus safety and together work towards finding opportunities where improvements can be made. The group meets monthly and has extended membership to any student on campus who is interested in speaking about safety issues. There was participation from a number of different groups and individuals on campus including SASSL, TBLGAY, DPET, YFS, CWTP, GSA, SCOLAPS. A listserv and a YU Connect page have been added to the outreach efforts.

Definition of a safe campus

- A place where you can express your identity without being attacked
- Where differences are accepted
- Where there is someone you can talk to
- Where you have trust that appropriate intervention will be used

Suggestions on improving campus safety

- Equity statement on course syllabus
- Visible safe space mandates
- Proactive approach to addressing systemic issues
- Sexual Assault policy

Ideas for 2013-2014

- Community engagement: need to be proactive vs. reactive i.e. more promotion for the upcoming CSC forums.
- Themed Forums: providing a space to talk about a specific issue, keep the conversation focused, might encourage higher participation.
- Adopt various means of outreach: i.e. possibility of using social media (Twitter, Facebook) to connect with other students, online suggestion box, finding ways to connect with commuter students
- "Safe Space" for Clubs i.e. increasing awareness with club members to help change culture
- Recognition for participation in the form of a letter or certificate recognizing CSC member contributions.

5. VICE-CHAIR ELECTION

R. Castle asked for student member nominees for the appointment of the council Vice-Chair. Prakash Amarasooriya was the only nominee and acclaimed to position of Vice-Chair of Community Safety Council.

6. 2012-2013 RECOMMENDATIONS

The President's response to the Annual Report for 2013, which was submitted during the summer, was presented. The President's response was circulated to the Council before the meeting (see attached document).

Additional clarification about the response for recommendation #5 was provided:

Toronto Police Services: 4 neighbourhood officers were added to 31 Division. The officers are not solely dedicated to the York University campus.

Security Officers: The University is working on a plan that would add an overlap shift, which would at least double the number of the security officers during the peak period of 10am-10pm Monday to Friday. This increase would result in higher visibility, flexibility to target specific areas (i.e. the library), developing connections with York communities, and public presentations, which is a key element of security personnel. If approved, it will be in place by the end of this year.

7. SAFETY INITIATIVES OVERVIEW

R. Castle provided an update on safety initiatives and their progress based on METRAC 101 recommendations (see attached document).

Safety Investments

Safety investments include: 74 emergency blue phones across campus, 70 LCD screens across campus, emergency PS system commitment for 40 Keele campus buildings, \$100,000 of lighting upgrades, security staff increase, expansion of the goSAFE program to include the use of go carts.

Safer Together

The goal, objectives, promotional material and tools (mobile application, website) of Safer Together campaign were presented (see attached presentation).

8. 2013-2014 CSC TOPICS

In spring 2013, the Council members participated in a survey. The survey results were shared with the Council (see document attached). The topic suggestions identified by Council members for 2013-2014 were presented. The Council members present voted on the topics to be discussed at the CSC meetings for 2013-2014. The results of this vote are shown below:

Topic	Number of Votes
1. Sexual assault policy and procedure	40
2. Preparing for the subway	32
3. Who is more affected by violence on campus and how their voices are being heard	28
4. Statistical information on security incidents	23
5. Looking beyond the METRAC	20
6. Safety campaigns that incorporate all student/faculty /staff perspectives	18
7. Police presence	17
8. Discussion about creating educational programs to combat the stigma and misconceptions around sexual violence	17
9. The role of Council members and their responsibilities	13
10. Opportunities for engagement on safety topics	13
11. Permanent presence on campus of an anti –sexual violence advisor	10
12. Updates on Faculty/students/staff initiatives	10
13. Safety for men	7
14. Presentations on safety from key administrators	6
15. Students’ rights	5
16. Frequency of Town Hall meetings	4
17. Green Dot training updates	2

9. WORKING GROUPS DEVELOPMENT

The development of working groups that would report to the Council is a new initiative. It was decided to integrate the working groups to the CSC topics.

ACTION ITEM: The working groups to be determined at the next meeting based on topic voting. Robert Castle, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues and Prakash Amarasooriya volunteered to review the focus of the working groups based on the 2013-2014 topics with John Amanatides.

10. SAFETY AUDIT COMMITTEE SELECTION

The safety audit implementation committee is a standing committee of the CSC that meets monthly prior the CSC meetings. The following CSC members volunteered to sit on the committee: Karanjit Bathal, Mikhaela Gray (or a Glendon representative),

Matthew Harris, Craig Heron, Joanne Huy, Jessica Thyriar, Elana Shugar and Brandon Vieira.

ACTION ITEM: Dimitra Markatas to schedule the Committee meeting once the Chair is confirmed.

11. SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY PROCESS

The proposed policy development plan was presented by R. Castle and will be guided by the *Developing a Response to Sexual Violence: A Resource Guide For Ontario's Colleges and Universities (2012)* and will provide a guideline for addressing sexual violence at York.

Sexual assault policy development timeline

- Fall 2013 : Commitment statement
- March 2014: Assessment completed
- Fall 2014: Draft policy and procedural document presented

A working group has been established.

ACTION ITEM: At the next meeting, small group discussion on sexual assault policy expectations.

Active bystander program

The bystander approach shifts the focus of prevention efforts to peers and community members, addresses all there levels of prevention (prior, during, after the event), helps a bystander overcome barriers for not getting involved.

Active bystander program timeline

March 2014: Program content developed

September 2014: Program pilot and feedback

October 2014: Program launch

12. INCLUSION TRAINING WORKSHOP REMINDER

R. Castle reminded the Council of the inclusion training workshop scheduled on Monday, November 4 and encouraged the members to attend. Noel Badiou added that the workshops are interactive training sessions, relevant to the group, updated on a regular basis and encouraged the Council members that attended last year to attend.

ACTION ITEM: Dimitra Markatas to send a reminder email to the Council members.

Public Forum

The CSC public forum is scheduled for November 12 in 105 Life Sciences Building. The Lighting Walking Tour will follow at 5:30pm.

ACTION ITEMS: Promotion of the forum: P. Amarasooriya to connect with J. Amanatides and R. Castle, CSC members to promote the forum and share the invite in their areas.

13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next Council meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 26th from 2:30-4:30pm in 208N York Lanes. The meeting schedule for 2013-2014 is posted on the Community Safety Council website (<http://csc.info.yorku.ca/meetings/>).