

# **Community Safety Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

March 18, 2014

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

519 Kaneff Tower

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**In attendance:** John Amanatides (Chair), Anna Ainswoth, Aldo Altomare, Prakash Amarasooriya, Noël Badiou, Tara Berger, Robert Castle, Tomorr Cerriku, Elize Ceschia, Paul Elliot, Mikhaela Gray, Matthew Harris, Craig Heron, Safiyah Husein for Jessica Thyriar, Joanne Huy, Patricia Lakin-Thomas, Andrew Little, Christian Marjollet, Dimitra Markatas, Euan McDermott, Anne Moore, Lesley Powell, Terry Wright, Christina Pringi, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Ray Rogers, Elana Shugar, Sean Siddik, Sunil Taneja, Dragan Spasojevic, Anestis Toptsis, Marc Wilchesky, Sheila Wilmot

**Regrets:** Kathryn Als, Aileen Ashman, Karanjit Bhathal, Ceceil Beckford, Kathy Branton, Glenn Cumming, Isha DeCoito, Lorna Erwin, Ioana Gheorghiu, Paula Gowdie Rose, Debbie Hansen, Mandi Hickman, Sgt. Stephen Hicks, Despina Ikik, Shazia Hafiji, Scott Jarvis, Debbie Kee, Sarah Khan, Lluvia Machuca Ruelas, Rosanna Furgieuele, James Nixon, Sal Paneduro, Tka Pinnock, Helen Psathas, Dewan Rahman, Soyinka Reid, Manuel Rodriguez, Catherine Salole, Sheila Shahrokhi, Steve Sicluna, Bob Smith, Brandon Vieira, Amber Wynne, Calvin Traynor, Marzena Tyszkiewicz, Donya Zayee

### **Chair's Welcome**

Chair John Amanatides welcomed those in attendance and the new member on the Council, Christina Pringi, representing York University Libraries.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes of the January, 2014 Council meeting were approved unanimously as corrected. Correction to the minutes: There is no protocol on mental health issues at the present time (pg. 3).

### **Student Committee Report**

Vice Chair, Prakash Amarasooriya, thanked the Council members for their attendance at the CSC Student Forum on student rights and responsibilities that took place in

February. The CSC Student Sub-Committee has now a tab on the CSC website where the agenda and meeting notes are posted.

Prakash and Elana Shugar attended a Community Safety Event in February. Toronto Police 31 Division and City Councillor Anthony Peruzza were present. . Some ideas were brought up such as having the Police run a 'positive police-presence' ad campaign with students to foster better communication on campus between the two groups. Prakash followed up with the students and informed them about the Community Safety Council Student Committee.

The Community Safety Council Vice-Chair is now a guest of the Student Representative Roundtable (SRR). Prakash has attended two of their meetings.

Prakash met with goSAFE to bring up concerns. goSAFE has published a new survey to provide better assistance to students and receive feedback [goSAFE survey](#)

Prakash also attended Spring Open House Gala on behalf of the CSC with Security and goSAFE. Incoming students and parents were informed about the Safety App and what York has to offer in terms of security.

The following were suggested:

- Extend the CSC membership to include a TTC and an Osgoode Mediation Centre representative. With the subway coming to YorkU, TTC input on the Council would be valuable. OMC works with the Jane and Finch Community and having a representative on CSC would enhance community engagement.
- Have a representative of the TDSB on the CSC to better connect with high schools and approach equity proactively before students enter university.
- Extended hours of the shuttle buses between Keele and Glendon campuses.
- -yFile for students promoting positive things on campus as well as better regulating information to students.
- Create a manual/welcome package for the CSC to explain its purpose and prioritize initiatives throughout the year.
- Have the PACER Report of the Toronto Police on the CSC website.

## **Student Sub Committee Concerns**

- Stong College: flood was reported in the storage room that damaged property.
- Bethune College: a pipe broke in the summer and it was still not fixed. Gambling was reported in the JCR and JACS rooms but monitors did not have training on the matter. Lighting along the back path is not considered safe and is a physically unsafe path.
- Response: John Amanatides, Master, Bethune College, stated that the monitors are trained to call security and there was no mention to him of a broken pipe.
- Founders College: Camera was installed outside Master's office after follow-up from Safety Forum.
- Glendon College: an issue with Security phone lines was reported. Phone calls were not going through. Security Services will investigate.

## **President's Message**

The Community Safety Council watched the video where YorkU President addresses the community on the subject of campus safety and security. [President's message](#)

## **Motion to Approve the Equity Statement**

The Council reviewed the working draft of the Equity Statement proposed by the Student Sub Committee which included the revisions made by CSC members (see appendix).

Amendment: to replace the [www.yorku.ca/safety](http://www.yorku.ca/safety) link with a link to a centralized directory of student resources.

The motion to approve the equity statement with the edits was made by the Chair. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **Update on the Student Centre Incident**

On March 6, a firearm had been discharged in the food court at the Student Centre. Two individuals were injured. It was confirmed that it was an accidental discharge with no intention to harm. An arrest was made. The message sent to the community by the University was clear. The incident represents unacceptable behavior on campus.

### Security presence

The event taking place at the Student Centre was Community fashion show that did not require a large security presence. Security officials did a walk through before the event. Patrols depend on the nature of the event and assessment. Altering shift schedule would provide flexibility.

### Communication

There was a delay in communication with the community. The security bulletin issued was delayed. There is lack of information with regards to the meaning of lockdown. The procedures were reviewed to improve communications.

The York U Safety App: in addition to security resources, including the York Security Services emergency line and key student safety services, such as goSafe, the campus shuttle and other important safety information, the push notification function is now operational. This function allows for urgent messages to be issued quickly. (It was used for the first time during the weather emergency)

Public address system: the PA system is fully operational in 14 buildings. Twelve more central buildings are coming online.

Active bystander program: the program is being developed. This approach would help enhance prevention efforts by educating and empowering peers and community members and enhance community engagement.

### **Member Report**

- TTC and goSAFE representation on the Council was suggested.
- A safer lighted path from the Faculty of Fine Arts to Pond Residence is needed.
- Installation of cameras at the Student Centre. A decision will be made within the next couple of weeks.
- Installation of defibrillators. They are in the process of being installed.

### **CSC Audit Sub-Committee Report**

The Committee met in February where goSAFE representatives were invited. goSAFE gave an overview of the goSAFE and village shuttle services and an update on METRAC recommendations. The presentation has been posted on the CSC web page under the Audit Sub Committee tab. [goSAFE presentation](#)

## **Review of Proposed Recommendations**

The Council reviewed the proposed recommendations (see appendix) and the following additions were made:

- the Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) to be finalized and signed by the University,
- the equity statement developed by the CSC Student Committee and approved by the Community Safety Council be sent to the Senate of York University for consideration and approval so that it could be included on course syllabi,
- a permanent role focused on education and prevention of sexual violence to be created,
- a Standard Operating Procedure related to Mental Health for York Security Services to be developed.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm

## **Appendix**

### **Working Draft Equity Statement**

York University is committed to social justice and equity in all its processes. It is our shared responsibility to create the conditions for all to achieve their potential and participate fully in the community. Attention should focus on promoting social justice and equity while eradicating systemic and structural discrimination. Furthermore, social justice and equity must be a guiding concept in all collegial decision-making, formation of processes and procedures.

Social justice and equity promote fair and respectful treatment of all persons, in relation to gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic status, association, sex, culture, age, marital status, family status, creed, ability, colour, ethnicity, citizenship, place of origin and ancestry.

In the pursuit of academic excellence the aforementioned will intersect and all community members are encouraged to pursue meaningful and positive discourse.

For more information regarding resources, visit [www.yorku.ca/safety](http://www.yorku.ca/safety).

### **Recommendations to the President (draft version as of March 18, 2014)**

Three working groups were created to discuss key themes from the Community Safety Council meetings and to devise recommendations for the President. Those working groups were: Culture of Safety, Communication & Engagement and Beyond METRAC – Preparing for the subway. Over the period of November 2013 and March 2014, the working groups met to review and discuss feedback.

The facilitators, Elana Shugar, Elize Ceschia and Christian Marjollet met to review their notes and compiled a list of recommendations.

On 18 March 2014, the recommendations were reviewed at the CSC Meeting. Minor changes were incorporated directly into the document. Additionally proposed recommendations are included at the end of the document.

1. To demonstrate the university's commitment to safety, and to foster the same commitment and transparency, we recommend a meeting be held among the Presidents of fellow GTA post-secondary institutions led by York University President, Mamdouh Shoukri. This meeting should focus on the safety of our

campuses including reviewing how statistics are represented and available, addressing sexual violence as well as potential strengths and opportunities. It would demonstrate leadership on the part of York University and could begin to show collaboration and support among post-secondary institutions as safety concerns are shared among all.

2. York University should host a symposium on Sexual Assault Prevention, Awareness, and Response in conjunction with other Post-Secondary institutions to discuss what Canadian campuses are doing to address this systemic issue. Successes, challenges, and barriers could be discussed. This would provide York the opportunity to take a leadership role in addressing this issue and highlight our communication strategy in informing the community when incidents occur and proactive initiatives such as the development of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Policy, You Had Me at Consent and the Active Bystander Program.
  - a. Rationale: situating York University as a leader in changing the discussion from one institution to a broader issues that leaders can come together to create change.
3. Safety information should be shared by professors during the first week of classes. A presentation should be developed that highlights the key resources on campus that students have access to. It could link to the safety site which could also be included on all Moodle websites. It could be a simple PowerPoint presentation set on loop when students are entering the classroom.
  - a. Rationale: there is a captive audience during the first week of classes. A simple presentation that is scrolling is nonintrusive and at the very least, over the course of the week, students may have the opportunity to read and retain the information. Further it demonstrates that the professors also care about the well-being of their students and this may help in fostering an engaged and caring community.
4. We recommend that a coordinated and consistent training program be including into the basic training for all student leaders. The training should focus on an overview of our values: respect, equity, diversity and inclusion as well as safety resources on campus.
  - a. Rationale: We support the current training programs that are offered yet realize the need that our student leaders, who are in a position to influence and support their peers, may not have received the training, in

particular related to safety, that may provide them with the support they need to execute their tasks.

5. We recommend that a workshop should be developed focusing on sexual assault and LGBTQ\* topics in collaboration with SASL and TBLGAY in conjunction with the Centre for Human Rights that could be delivered by peer trainers during orientation and throughout the year. Support should be given to try to integrate such sessions into orientation for students.
  - a. Rationale: Given the interest in shifting the culture at York University and efforts to build student engagement and awareness around issues of equity and inclusivity, consideration should be given to the role that SASL and TBLGAY could play in providing peer-to-peer training in College orientations in a coordinated programmatic approach which integrates with the programming of the Centre for Human Rights.
6. To increase engagement and pride among students, we recommend increasing the reach and accessibility of YFile by emailing to all students. YFile is designed to showcase the positive work York University community members are doing and we feel it would be beneficial to leverage this current resource to help communicate good news.
  - a. Rationale: Students have shared that they only receive negative information (via email) from the university and want to receive more positive and proactive information, particularly around safety.
7. We recommend that the CSC compile an annual report to highlight the previous year's recommendations, the work that was accomplished throughout the year, the work currently in progress and what future goals the CSC has established. This will foster a better understanding of the group's purpose for new members and lays a road map for each subsequent year.
  - a. Rationale: The Community Safety Council is engaged in a variety of discussions and initiatives over the course of each year with potential membership turnover each year. The current terms of reference indicate that the CSC put out an annual report and this recommendation is highlighting this need.
8. In an effort to foster understanding about the role of the CSC and the expectations of members, we recommend clearly outlining this information as well as the previous year's annual report in a welcome package which is distributed to all members at the beginning of each year.



- a. Rationale: Members will more likely be engaged if they are connected to their role on the CSC. Having a welcome package will provide them with the resources they need to better understand their role and how they can contribute as members. Further it provides them with information to share with their constituents.
9. We recommend that recognition be awarded to active members, in particular student members, of the Community Safety Council who demonstrate their commitment by giving their time through meetings, emails or support within the community.
  - a. Rationale: Individuals need to feel valued for the work that they do and a simple recognition for their time is a small part in building that sense of value.
10. Following last year's recommendation that the porter system in residence be reviewed to provide better security during Orientation week, we recommend that this be evaluated as an ongoing yearly initiative.
  - a. Rationale: The potential for a security risk is possible at any time during the day. Having a consistent presence in residence lobbies will help to provide assistance to the Dons, RLCs and residents at all times during the day.
11. We recommend that each meeting have a focused agenda item where each group, or a designate group set at the previous meeting, shares the work they are doing as well as any challenges they are facing. In this way, opportunities can be leveraged and challenges explored.
  - a. Rationale: The Community Safety Council represents a broad group of voices from the community. We recognize that many of these groups are involved in a variety of ways which help contribute to a safer campus and those voices should be provided an opportunity to share.
12. The York University Keele campus is undergoing several changes including the subway and PanAM construction projects. These large scale changes bring forward many safety concerns. We recommend that President Shoukri communicate to the York community the impact of the subway and the subsequent changes on the Keele campus e.g. discontinued bus routes, new parking lots, new roads, etc. Further, we recommend that President Shoukri communicate to the York community the impact of the Pan Am Games on the Keele campus, the logistics and its implication on safety July/ August 2015.

13. We recommend that along with communication about the changes and impact of projects like the subway and the PanAm games that the CSC be seen as resource regarding community safety issues and be consulted during the planning phases of these projects. This consultation will provide the opportunity to bring forward and address concerns proactively.

- a. Rationale: The CSC represents a wide selection of community members and would be in a position, based on their point of view, to offer feedback which may not necessarily have been considered.

14. Regarding the subway construction, we recommend an open forum with representatives from University of Toronto and Ryerson to share their experiences as communities integrated within the downtown community.

- a. Rationale: In discussions regarding the subway there are many concerns that arise which we may not be in the best place to answer. Having members from the universities which do face these challenges everyday might offer valuable learning outcomes and opportunities.

15. We recommend present measures (e.g. goSafe and Security patrols) be coordinated with subway schedules especially last subway (both ways).

- a. Rationale: Many York community members will be using the subway and it would be prudent to coordinate methods of transportation and Security.

16. We recommend the CSC revisit the METRAC report and subsequent recommendations to a) determine which are currently relevant and b) how we see those recommendations moving forward for the next 5 years.

- a. Rationale: The METRAC Safety Audit was released in 2010 and we recognize that many changes have occurred since its release. It makes sense to make the report more current by highlighting the successes achieved and the milestones to accomplish.

17. We recommend that Community Relations leverage current initiatives which foster engaged interaction with the Jane and Finch community and determine there are new opportunities to be explored including open forums with our external communities and investigating best practices for a collaborative approach.

- a. Rationale: Having a large academic institution integrated into a community like Jane and Finch can provide a number of different reciprocal learning opportunities. Further if there is a safety risk in the

neighbouring community then the current networks can be leverage to help communicate important information.

**Additional Recommendations proposed at the 18 March 2014 meeting:**

18. We recommend that the Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol be finalized and signed by the University.
19. We recommend that the equity statement developed by the CSC Student Committee and approved by the Community Safety Council be included on course syllabi.
20. We recommend the position of Sexual Violence Education and Prevention Advisor be made permanent.
21. We recommend that the university establish a Standard Operating Procedure related to Mental Health for York Security Services.
  - a. Rationale: It is important that our York Security Services be in a position to respectfully and professionally respond to situations in which mental health plays a key role.