

# Community Safety Council

## Meeting Minutes

April 22nd, 2015

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

280N York Lanes

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**In attendance:** Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (Chair), Aldo Altomare, Prakrash Amarasooriya, Noël Badiou, Melissa Beisle, Meghan Carrington, Robert Castle, Tomorr Cerriku, Lorna Erwin, Mikhaela Gray, Amanda Hickman, Lee Iskander, Patrick Legris, Christian Marjollet for John Mayberry, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Anne Moore, Melissa Palermo, Lesley Powell, Elana Shugar, Steve Sicluna, Dragan Spasojevic, Sunil Taneja, Karen Traboulay, Security Officer, Sheila Wilmot, Terry Wright

**Regrets:** Vanessa Aguiar for Aileen Ashman, Sayjon Ariyaratnam, Scott Bagley, Rina Brandt, Rachele Clemente, , Steve Dempsey, Steve Dewar, Ruthann Dyer, Paul Elliott, Jose Etcheverry, Rosanna Furgiuele, Christel Galea, Debbie Hansen, Matthew Harris, Meagan Heath, Craig Heron, Shannon Jackson, Scott Jarvis, Roxana Jahani Aval, Asal Kazemi, Debbie Kee, Bernard King, Emiljano Mance, Sgt. Stephen Hicks, Steve Mulholland, Katherine Newman, Paul O'Brien, Helen Psathas, Dewan Rahman, Lluvia Machuca Ruelas, Catherine Salole, Toby Samson, Sheila Shahrokhi, Sean Siddik, Kate Singh, Bob Smith, Jeff Stagger, Jodine Tavares, Calvin Traynor, Marzena Tyszkiewicz, Ines Van Deuren, Lara Yehia, Marc Wilchesky,

### Chair's Welcome

Chair Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt welcomed the Council to the final CSC meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year. The Chair thanked members for their dedication to safety and for their participation and efforts within the Council. Norma Sue thanked Vice-Chair Prakash Amarasooriya for his leadership in engaging students in safety related issues over the past two years.

The working group facilitators have met twice since the January Council meeting to coordinate recommendations for the final report. The facilitators will have a final meeting to finalize recommendations which will then be circulated to the Council before they are forwarded to the President. The draft recommendations will be prepared by the middle of May and they will be sent to President Shoukri by the beginning of June.

The three CSC working groups will carry-forward to the next academic year to strengthen the continuity and progress of the Council. Norma Sue has asked the current working group facilitators for their feedback on this structural change and they unanimously supported the recommendation. The working group leads have agreed to continue their role in September 2015. Council members will be asked prior to the next meeting if additional working groups should be considered. Members are to email Norma Sue if they have concerns regarding this change.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Prakash Amarasooriya motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 19th, 2015. The motion was seconded by Meghan Carrington. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved as presented.

### **Business Arising from the Meeting Minutes**

On February 20th the Ontario Committee on Student Affairs hosted a conference at York University which focused on sexual assault prevention.

The Active Bystander pilot session took place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for Community Safety Council members. Participants were given an opportunity to provide feedback on the program after attending the training.

On February 23, 2015, the Board of Governors of York University approved the Policy on Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention, and Response.

### **Student Sub-Committee Report**

Prakash Amarasooriya, CSC Vice-Chair for 2014-2015, provided an update to the Council:

- The Vice-Chair responded to emails relating to safety issues during the labour disruption
- The Sub-Committee connected with the Vice-President Finance and Administration's office and obtained a fact sheet for faculty on campus safety
- The Vice-Chair met with the Student Representative Roundtable to discuss safety
- The Sub-Committee engaged in conversations with Silence is Violence at York to address their safety concerns
- The Sub-Committee provided information on goSAFE services to Stong College Council members

The Sub-Committee hosted a meeting with students after the conference in February. There has been no development on refuge areas due to the labour disruption. Rob Castle will advise at the next meeting. Another Committee meeting will take place next week.

The Vice-Chair shared final remarks which included words of encouragement to continuing members and a thank you to the Council for their support and ongoing efforts to address safety. There will be an election in September for the Vice-Chair position which will be filled by a student.

### **CSC Member Report**

Rob Castle provided an update on the new sexual assault policy. The President requested that a sexual assault policy be established in 2013. A working group was formed in December 2013 to address this request which included 5 student representatives and 11 other members. The first task involved mapping out current policies. In December 2014 the working group was directed to focus their energy on drafting a policy which was approved on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015. The next process involves reviewing current processes at the University. Procedures on awareness and response will be drafted and implemented in Fall 2015. The working group is expanding the membership of student representatives and it is celebrated as a model of student participation by the Canadian Federation of Students. 50% of the working group will be represented by students. Consultations with other community members will be incorporated within their next steps.

Caitlin and Mandi from Silence is Violence at York discussed their concerns related to campus safety. The group is working with students from UofT and Ryerson to look at policies and procedures that York could implement to improve the University's response to sexual assault on campus. The group distributed a list of areas that they have identified require change. Key highlights from their presentation included:

- Bureaucracy as a barrier to getting resources from the university
- Unclear policies in sexual assault cases
- Concerns with the OSCR procedure and the way sexual assault is addressed by the University
- The need for active inclusion of survivors on safety committees

Council members engaged in discussion after the Silence is Violence at York student group presented. Main discussion points included:

- The past Sexual Assault and Education Center and the opportunity to establish a new one
- The need for clearer communication with the University community on issues related to safety

Noël Badiou provided an update on the Centre for Human Rights. There are three leads in CHR, each of whom heads one of three specific areas: Racism, Accessibility and Sexual Harassment. There is a new educator position that will focus on sexual assault prevention. This position will focus on training and sharing information with community members. The CHR office receives complaints from students, faculty and staff. As a result, they have 3 case resolution advisors to address the various campus issues and concerns.

### **CSC Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee met in late February to review METRAC recommendations and to address questions related to the Equity Statement. A questionnaire is being developed by Elana Shugar and Rob Castle which will be sent to community members in Fall 2015, following the completion of the METRAC. The purpose of the survey is to collect data on the community's awareness of safety programs and services.

### **Working Group Discussion and Update**

Independent working group discussion followed. The working group facilitators provided an update to the Council.

#### **CSC Sexual Assault Training and Education**

Discussion points included that the working group is:

- Looking at education training initiatives on campus and compiling a list to identify gaps as well as to expand on existing resources. Over the summer there will be a sub-working group to develop a framework for soliciting data from departments.
- Discussing the possibility of gearing training towards specific groups on campus, how to evaluate training and the different opportunities to provide incentives for community members to attend training
- Exploring the idea to create a first responder pan-university forum to generate network opportunities
- Focusing on communication and how information is being disseminated. The working group would like to explore opportunities to strengthen communication between York security and the Toronto Police Services (TPS).

It was mentioned that the internal information folders for first responders will need to be updated as new sexual assault policies and procedures are implemented.

### **Safety Communication and Outreach and The active Bystander Program**

Discussion points included:

- Security Bulletin distribution
- YUStart First Year Program: During first 2 weeks of classes safety information will be communicated through classroom screens to increase awareness. Academic supervisors will be contacted prior to the resumption of classes and they will be provided the option to discuss safety with their students.
- The Active Bystander Program continues to evolve as community members share their feedback on the training session
- Engaging Faculty and Staff in safety resources
- Social Media as a safety communication tool for the University
- Discussing the MoU between TPS or related services and students and addressing the gap between students who undergo traumatic incidents and communication to University support staff

### **Outside Safety**

CSBO planning and maintenance have been using practices consistently at the University. The Outside Safety working group's recommendations will focus on setting a policy that includes codifying and training. Terry Wright submitted the most recent draft of the recommendations to key stakeholders on campus to solicit feedback.

### **Other Business**

The working group facilitators will review the demands made by the Silence is Violence at York student group to see if any of their concerns can be added to any of the Council's working groups.

The Vice Chair will invite the Silence is Violence at York to attend the next PSCSS meeting.

A rooming house review will take place on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 6-8pm in the Harry Crowe Room, Atkinson Building, York University which will be facilitated by the city of Toronto. Members are asked to share this information with the community.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place in Fall 2015.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm