

Community Safety Council Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2012
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
519, YRT

~

Action Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: John Amanatides, Prakash Amarasooriya, Noël Badiou, Robert Castle, Elize Ceschia, Catherine Davidson, Paul Elliott, Debbie Hansen, Rob Kilfoyl, Nadim Lalani, Christian Marjollet, Stephanie Michelle, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Paula Gowdie Rose, Bob Smith, Roshan Udit, Sheila Wilmot

Regrets: Noa Ashkenazi, Paul Bailey, Clifford Baker, Kathy Branton, Dave Boyce, Graham Bowditch, Steve Dranitsaris, Rosanna Furgiuele, Ioana Gheorghiu, Kaddy Gibson, Sonia Gupta, Matt Harris, Janet Huang, Safiyah Husein, Scott Jarvis, Sarah Khan, Debbie Kee, Sgt. Jason Kraft, Kulsoom, Khan, Alexandria Maclachlan, Janine Manning, Toby Mayer, Tanya McFadyen, Arti Mehta James Nixon, Andréé Paulin, Tka Pinnock, Lesley Powell, Helen Psathas, Dewan Rhaman, Morgan Russell, Catherine Salole, Elana Shugar, Steve Sicluna, Jason Springer, Talha Mohammad Syed, Dragan Spasojevic, Sunil Taneja, Calvin Traynor, Patricia Yu, Livy Visano, Marc Wilchesky, Amber Wynne, Brenda Zimmerman

1. Chair and Vice-Chair Remarks

Chair J. Amanatides welcomed those in attendance and noted that he expected a smaller gathering given that this was an additional meeting intended to gather safety concerns and ideas as a response to recent safety concerns.

2. Top 3 issues (determined by colleagues); Themes, Forms

Issues included the following:

- general safety, sexual harassment and racial profiling
- poor communication
- *no comprehensive and collaborative (university & students) sexual policy
- campus doors on swipe access that don't open
- poor lighting; near bus stops, parking areas, between buildings, etc.
- walkways not properly maintained, includes uneven ground, black ice/snow
- building keys and master keys not returned
- buildings not locked when they are meant to be
- personal who work late and/or alone
- night courses scheduled in isolated/poorly secured areas

- new subway will bring additional people and issues to campus
- illicit activities (smoking, thieving, homeless sleeping, etc.) and the inability to control the environment/buildings
- no training for dealing with violent and/or safety issues
- poor lighting & security when moving between upper & lower level of campus
- security response too slow to investigate incidents
- female staff working late/female Profs. given night exams in remote areas
- Assiniboine Apts where non-residents hide behind walls to gain access when others entering and/or leaving

*J. Amanatides asked N. Badiou to clarify the role of the Human Rights Centre for this issue. N. Badiou stated that there is currently a sexual harassment officer, on a one year contract, in the Human Rights Centre, who is connecting with groups on campus to create a policy; a draft will be circulated. He clarified that his office is mandated to deal with sexual harassment – not sexual assault.

Ideas included the following:

- communication improvements: 2 pronged approach – deterrents & information with updates & new measures; proactive not reactive
- comprehensive CCTV system across campus
- safety bulletins immediately following incidents, rather than hearing/reading about it in the media, sometimes days later
- Keep an online public log of complaints & concerns along with information about how they are being addressed & resolved
- decrease the moral panic that is escalated by media, for events that aren't York related
- locking buildings and/or restricted hours that are posted on buildings
- swipe access only for buildings and/or Smart Cards
- increased security *walking* presence
- security officer at reception area of buildings; security cameras; security presence in buildings
- scheduling classes in areas of critical mass; especially in off peak hours
- centralized sexual assault and/or safety office or centre
- safety officer in a kiosk in residents
- use Titter for safety (as currently used for shuttles & go safe)
- a centralized place on campus where students, staff & faculty can send complaints, concerns, issues (lights out, locks not working, etc.)
- website that clarifies what to expect from York security (vs. what police do)

- tools for members of the CSC to report up-to-date information to their represented groups
- staff required to wear names tags; students required to present student id to enter buildings
- guests to be escorted into buildings by students, staff, faculty
- comprehensive lighting system; includes parking, transit & walkway areas, to eliminate shadow areas
- more panic buttons
- more fixed seating for non-able bodied, and others who require rest spot

J. Amanatides asked the committee to consider the larger issue of communication and how effective it currently works with regards to safety.

Issues:

- public forums have low turn outs
- people need a method of collecting safety information on their own
- ensure that communication is directed to staff as well as students & faculty

Ideas:

- posters; with qr code
- post information in lecture halls/rooms on screens
- background screens (computers) utilized when possible
- running scroll across top/bottom of home page for emergencies and safety alerts
- link from York home page to safety web site
- updates on Facebook & Twitter (deemed less intrusive than email)
- awareness campaign (proactive & inclusive)
- monthly out-reach bulletin; include a website link for further details (council members could send to the represented groups)
- Town Hall meetings, with a panel that includes (CSC) student representatives - every semester (need not be hosted by President; could be this committee; and/or named Safety Town Hall)

** council agrees that no one method will work and solutions must include a reasonable array of multiple methods

Action Item:

E. Ceschia stated that REDI is being launched. This will be an opportunity for the community to speak about safety issues, and an opportunity for members of this council to take the 30/40 minute tutorial. A survey has been prepared and members can register through Graham Bowditch, Centre for Human Rights. E. Ceschia will send an

email to council members early next week (Jan.29/30) to provide registration and survey information.

Chair, J. Amanatides reminds the CSC members of the Community Town Hall event scheduled for January 30, 2013, 2:30-4:30pm. in Curtis I.

3. Next Regular Meeting: February 7, 2013