

Community Safety Council Meeting
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Thursday April 28, 2011
Schulich, N109

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Minutes

In Attendance: Pat Bradshaw, Robert Cerjanec, Ginan Meerwali, Alastair Woods, Todd Zubyck, Bob Smith, Carolyn McDougall, Catherine Davidson, Richmond Lo, Wendie Mo, Vanessa Hunt, Brian Chang, Naomi Smedbol, Nada Khan, Samantha Lampert, Debbie Kee, Chris Frost, Sunil Taneja, Noel Badiou, Saud Ahmad, Rob Kilfoyle, Paul Bailey, Catherine Salole, Marc Wilchesky, Rob Castle, Steve Dranitsaris, Scott Jarvis, Calum Mackechnie, Lorna Wright, Rob Tiffin, Justin Ramdewar, Katherine Bateman, Patricia Yu, Jad Yaghmour, Paula Gowdie Rose, Robert Wai, Rose Celebre

Regrets: Billy Gyamfi, Krisna Saravanamuttu, Amanda Glasbeek, Susan Dimock, Richard Ooi, Sonia Gupta, Sharon Hooper, Judy Meikle, Katherine Lapointe, Marty Williams, Luis Figueiredo, Sgt. Richard, Tka Pinnock, Jessica Thyriar, Livy Visano, Ceceil Beckford, Wanda Sanginese, Lynn McDougall, Chinedu Ngadi, Saba Rafiq, James Nixon, Eleni Giovanopoulos, Przbyslaw Mejnarowicz, Brittany Caron, Nisha Eswaran, Rosanna Furgiuele,

1. Welcome and Chair's Remarks

- Pat Bradshaw welcomed members, guests and first-time member attendees. A minute of silence was observed in memory of Qian Liu.

2. Follow-up on recent events on campus and near the Keele campus

- Expressions of personal thoughts and feelings were shared by each member and guests. Emotions expressed ranged from rage and fear to loss and sadness. Our shared sense of personal vulnerability was expressed as were worries about some members' children who attend York and concerns about all students. A dominant sentiment was expressed with a quote "enough is enough – it is time to do something!"
- Themes that emerged included the need to build a community approach to address safety, the effectiveness of more education, the need to move from feelings of sadness, anger and grief to action, calls for a culture change and reminders that we need to be aware that both women's bodies are being targeted as well as queer bodies and that we should not ignore homophobic attacks on members of the LGBT community. The tension between prevention and the goal of total elimination of violence was raised as was the need to work with others outside the university to address safety for all. Sadness was

expressed that relations with our international communities will be harmed by the murder and that it will be very difficult to explain what happened to those around the world who are considering York.

- Some members expressed the opinion that we need to put enhanced safety measures in place regardless of funding and that York University administration not doing enough. The challenges for students and other community members living in the village were identified and in particular the feeling of being unsafe. Some students are trying to patrol the community at night but this was seen as unsustainable. The need for a community watch program was expressed.

3. Town and Gown Update

- Rob Castle/Carolyn McDougall – approximately 80-85% of those residing in the Village are York University students. Each single dwelling is housing anywhere from 6-15 students. Some are living in garages. Situation in the village is difficult to manage. Municipal authorities cannot gain access to the properties without permission from the owners of the homes. Rooming house by-law does not exist. Town and Gown is a universal term: coming together and talking about safety issues etc. York U has a Town and Gown Group which includes not only the village but also Harry Sherman Crowe co-op. Resident's association to have student representation. Review what other municipalities have done and implement here. With recent tragedy, focus on media interest and investigative media reporting is forthcoming.

4. Motion:

Vanessa Hunt provided a handout outlining requests relating to safety on and off campus and moved that CSC endorse it. After extensive discussion and a motion to extend the meeting the motion was tabled. Below are some of the points raised during the discussion:

- It was stated that there is a perception of lack of acknowledgement of safety issues from York University administration and lack of support from upper level administration at York. York administration is using "it is not in our jurisdiction" as yet another excuse for inaction on METRAC report related items. Administration is perceived as "picking and choosing" what measures they want to implement. The power lies with the administration. Reiterated that this is not finger-pointing. Seems that CSC does not have the power to make changes and there is no clear role of the CSC. Comments were made noting the apparent absence of the President's office at this meeting and questions were raised about why there was no representative from the Office of the

President. Members were reminded recent events will impact York University's reputation and future enrollment.

- The request to expand the membership of the SASC was agreed to and the subcommittee has already requested additional student and staff volunteers.
- York University has no legal power in the Village (in any dwelling in the Village). York University is/has put into place shuttle service, TTC re-routing through the village, walking tours (with little student participation). Upon opening of the Village, administration initiated meetings with the developer, local councilor, police etc. Home owners of village dwellings have responsibility. York U administration is trying to move as quickly as they can and trying to persevere on recommendations from METRAC.
- Discussions included limitations in collective agreements and further review from constituent groups being required before offering support.
- The Chair stated that the CSC has met on 5 occasions to-date and a great deal of commitment and work has been demonstrated. When asked about resistance to endorsing the document she indicated that she lacked information about the intent of the movers for use of an endorsement and that it was unfortunate that the movers had been unable to attend earlier meetings of the CSC.
- It is of utmost importance that York University administration and students work together/band together and bring concerns to the local councilor, authorities etc.
- Concern was expressed that we should not endorse something which we cannot implement. Suggestion was made to re-word points to facilitate implementation
- Members pointed out that the spirit and intent of demands is good however others expressed concerns about wording as well.

5. Closing Remarks

- We have a commitment to embrace anti-oppression. We must continue to work together as a community, needs of students are paramount.
- New attendees are to advise Rose – email addresses etc.
- Members interested in joining the SASC are asked to advise Catherine Davidson.

Meeting adjourned 12:25 pm

Next Meeting:

**September 28, 2011
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

519, YRT