

Meeting Minutes

Meeting	CSC Student Committee – General Meeting
Date & Time	October 21, 2014 11:00 AM
Location	901 YRT
Attendance	Prakash Amarasooriya, Elana Shugar, Melissa Belisle, Rachele Clemente, Ryan Moore, Noorpree Dhillon, Samiyah Shibly, Rob Castle

Vice-Chair Position

- CSC Vice-Chair elections took place at the CSC meeting on September 30th 2014
 - Prakash Amarasooriya was re-elected as CSC Vice Chair.

Group Agreement

- Members reviewed the Group Agreement

Community Safety Initiatives Overview (Rob Castle)

- Rob Castle gave a brief overview on some of the Community Safety Initiatives underway.
 - A Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention, and Response Policy is in the process of being developed
 - An Active Bystander Program to address Sexual Violence is being developed.
 - There will be opportunities for CSC Student Committee members to continue to provide input on these initiatives.

Safety Discussion

- **Clarification about Police on campus**
 - Prior to the first CSC meeting a survey is circulated to members asking what are some key issues or suggestions they would like the CSC to focus on each year in working groups. These survey results are presented at the first CSC meeting and members vote on which topics they would like to focus on in working groups.
 - One of the topics suggested by a member of the CSC in the survey was 'Police Kiosk / Station on campus'
 - This was not one of the topics that was selected for further focus.
 - Clarification was provided in the CSC Student Committee meeting that there is no plan to have a Police Kiosk or Station on campus.
- **Security Bulletins**
 - An inquiry was made as to why York's Security Bulletins are public.

- Since July 2012, Security Bulletins are emailed to all students, staff, and faculty members. The Security Bulletins are also posted on the Security website.
 - York is committed to transparency and sharing information with the community is a key part of that.
 - York tries to ensure that it communicates the most reliable information to the community and holds itself to a high standard.
 - After the recent Bulletin was issued there have been questions around the Bulletin Protocol and the timeline of events.
 - Suggestions were made to include more information regarding Security Services and/or Toronto Police Services response to the incident within the Bulletins.
- **York engaging in social media**
 - York does not usually engage in social media around safety
 - There is a Student Safety facebook page but it is not managed by the University.
- **York's role in actively dispelling myths about crime in the community**
 - Balance between proactive communication and coming across defensive.
 - Intention is not to minimize any incident that has occurred on the campus.
- **Sexual Violence Education**
 - Concern expressed that sexual assault education has predominantly stemmed from student organizations
 - You Had Me At Consent had a turnout of 4,600 students this year.
 - 4,600 / 56,000 may not seem like a large amount but this signifies more than half of first year students. The turnout to the event has been increasing each year. If only the same amount of students attend moving forward, four years from now, 18,400 students will have attended the annual consent event.
 - That is a significant portion of the student community.
 - Importance of reaching first year students – students come to York with negative normative ideologies and behaviours already developed.
 - It is difficult to deconstruct and challenge these established ideas. There is agreement that we must try.
 - Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention, and Response Policy process will be mapping out education and awareness initiatives in order to establish a more strategic and collaborative approach to addressing the issue.
 - Reference to the comment made by an officer in 2007 that was victim blaming.
 - Importance of tackling these issues and deconstructing myths.
 - Priority for SASSL in the development of the Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention, and Response Policy process is the option of confidential / third party reporting.
 - Importance of reaching broadest community and addressing the systemic issue

- **Funding Safety Infrastructure**
 - CCTV is requested by different groups
 - Over 20 years a few million has been spent
 - PA System – Emergency communication i.e. An active shooter
 - 3 million for 40 PA Systems
 - Allows immediate communication
 - Balancing priorities for enhancing infrastructure and education and awareness
 - Investing in infrastructure does not mean not investing in education
 - Shifting a culture is complex
 - Suggestion on education initiatives is always welcome
 - Statistics suggest 1/3 women have been sexually assaulted. This represents a serious issue.
 - Education and awareness needs to be a priority
 - However, balance of various issues need to be taken into consideration.

Topics of interest for CSC Student Committee

- **Campaign around de-stigmatizing Jane & Finch**
 - The community is stigmatized
 - Concern around absence of voice representing the Jane & Finch community in wider safety discussions
 - Support initiatives that are already in place
 - CSCSC role should be to support the campaigns and events that are already in place.
 - Concerns around the re-naming of Jane & Finch to University Heights
 - **ACTION:** Rachele will consult with Jane and Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP) to find out what initiatives they are currently working on and in what way the CSCSC could support the work they are doing.
- **Sexual Assault, Awareness, Prevention, and Response Symposium**
 - Approved CSC recommendation from last year
 - **ACTION:** Prakash will follow-up with CSC about the recommendation.
- **Addressing Racial Profiling**
- **CSC Working Groups**
 - Sexual Assault Prevention, Education, and Support
 - Outside Safety
 - Safety Communication and Outreach/ Active Bystander Program

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, November 25th | 11:00-12:30pm | 902 Kaneff Tower