

# **Safety Audit Sub-Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

**2:30 pm – 4:00pm**

**626 Kaneff Tower**

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## **Minutes**

In Attendance: Anne Moore (Chair), Katherine Branton, Robert Castle, Mikhaela Gray, Lindsay Gutt, Awani Kulkarni, Rodney de Roché Elana Shugar

Regrets: Siraz Chatha, Scarlett Farquhar, Myron Khan, Grace Randall, Jasper Paredes,

### **Chair's Welcome**

Chair Anne Moore welcomed those in attendance to the first Safety Audit Sub-Committee Meeting of the academic year. The committee members introduced themselves. The goal of the meeting was to generate an outline of what the committee should focus on this upcoming year. The 2014-2015 CSC Annual Report included a recommendation to transition the role of the safety audit sub-committee to review the implementation of the Community Safety Council recommendations and track their progress. Most meetings include updates from Rob Castle and Elana Shugar on the METRAC recommendations. The safety audit sub-committee is an accountability group. It began with monitoring the METRAC recommendations and has now been repurposed to track the CSC recommendations.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chair Anne Moore motioned to approve the meeting minutes of May 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. Several members did not have the opportunity to review the minutes and requested that they be approved at the next meeting.

### **Overview of Sub-Committee**

An overview of the sub-committee was provided during the Chair's welcome.

### **METRAC Recommendations (R Castle, E. Shugar)**

There was discussion on the recommendation about defensible space in the METRAC report. Defensible space refers to an employee's work space and whether or not the physical characteristics of the space allow the individual to be an agent in ensuring their security. For example, the area behind a desk or a space that requires key access would be considered a defensible space. At York University, the Kinsmen building and the West Office building are completely defensible spaces as you need to call an employee within the building to get access into the building.

Elana provided the committee with the *York safety audit recommendations for safety audit standing committee review* hand-out and Rob provided an update on several of the recommendations. A new category has been added to track the progress of METRAC recommendations which is entitled *reviewed and revised*. The *complete* category does not imply that VPFA and the audit committee will stop reviewing the recommendations that fall under this category as safety is always ongoing. For example recommendation 2.29 *Emergency Mass Alert Notifications* is identified as complete because the University has made a lot of progress in this area and has implemented several emergency mass alert notifications such as the campus-wide PA system, LED screens and safety app initiatives. However, more alert devices may be added in the future.

Recommendation 1.31 *Sexual Assault Training for Faculty and Teaching Assistants* has been identified as complete and ongoing as there is more work being done to address this area of safety. The working group on Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention and Response is developing procedures and programs to respond to sexual assault. Training is available but is currently not mandatory. The CSC working group on Sexual Assault Education, Training and Prevention is completing an audit of the training programs that currently exist at the University and identifying the gaps. The various working groups are working with faculty to address the barriers involved in implementing mandatory training and educating faculty and staff on this particular issue. In the winter term, the chair of the Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention and Response working group will be invited to a sub-committee meeting to give an update on the draft procedures.

Recommendation 1.28 *Prevention of Violence Against Women Education programs for Men* is complete and ongoing. Prevention programs tend to attract community members who are already aware of the issues. Men between the age of 17-25 are the majority of the perpetrators and the University is trying to identify how to best connect with this group. The programs need to appeal to the demographic that they are designed to target. The Active Bystander program has been developed to address this concern. The annual consent event that takes place during orientation had 4000 first year students participate in the session in 2014. This is an essential event as 40% of sexual assaults take place on campus in September during orientation and the public high school systems are not educating incoming students on the topic of consent.

The METRAC recommendations under significantly advanced and under review have been assigned to different working groups under the Community Safety Council. It was suggested

that the Council working groups take responsibility for their assigned recommendations to ensure that they are being moved forward. Elana Shugar will edit the proposed recommendations for each working group based on sub-committee's feedback and it will be distributed electronically for final review. At the next Community Safety Council meeting, Rob Castle will ask the working groups to take on these recommendations within their working group efforts.

There was discussion between committee members regarding the Active Bystander initiative. Over the past year, there have been several pilot sessions of the program to get feedback from community members. There is currently a resourcing constraint to implement the program. As the new community safety department grows and establishes itself, it will be easier to begin the implementation phase of the program. The principles of the program have been deployed through training sessions for orientation leaders and residence dons. The program needs to fit the various audiences within our community. Awani suggested that Night Porters in residence buildings should also take an Active Bystander training session.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in December 2015. The equity statement update and the CSC recommendation-tracking implementation agenda items have been deferred to the next meeting. Committee members voiced that they would like to further discuss the procedures that are being drafted by the Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention and Response working group. Mikhaela will share VPFA's comments on the 2014-2015 CSC Annual Report with the sub-committee, prior to the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.