

Meeting Notes

Meeting	CSC Student Representatives – Student Focus Group #2
Date & Time	Thursday October 25, 2012, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Location	902 YRT
Attendance	Michelle Smith, Prakash Amarasooriya, Vrutika Patel, Mohammad Syed, Toby Mayer, Kaley Roosen, Safiyah Hussein, Elana Shugar, Ioana Gheorghiu, Matthew Harris, Elize Ceschia,

Welcome and Introductions

- Each member provided a brief introduction and description of what drives them to participate and what they hope to achieve by being part of this group

Group Purpose

- Elize shared the purpose of the group:
 - Create a forum for an open and positive conversation
 - Use as a two-way communication to share updates, ideas, concerns and discuss potential solutions
 - Use this time to discuss and determine if certain ideas, concerns or solutions should be raised and brought to the CSC or SASC.

CSC and SASC Mandates

- CSC:
 - advisory body - “work collaboratively and proactively to amplify issues, facilitate coordination of safety related activities, focus attention of relevant administrative bodies and provide a forum for discussion of emerging challenges relating to safety”
- SASC:
 - Monitor and oversee the implementation of the METRAC recommendations
 - Identify gaps in the implementation plans
 - Make recommendations accordingly to CSC
 - Help CSC carry out its mandate through liaison with the Management Safety Committee

General Feeling of Safety

- Need for proactive safety measures – prevention and education
- Approach to language around Sexual Assault needs to change – shift from the survivor to the perpetrator – tips on how to be a safe person – i.e. if you see someone walking alone at night, don’t harass them, rather than “don’t walk alone at night”

Training

- Need to develop a culture where – ‘It doesn’t have to happen here’
- Training for student executives and leaders needed

Security

- A majority of the discussion came focused on York Security
- Suggestions included:
 - Seeing Security Officials walking around during the day
 - Getting the sense that Security Officials are approachable
 - Stationing officials in high risk locations (eg. Bus stop locations in the evenings)

- To help address the concerns being shared by the group members, Elize offered the possibility of having the Director of Security, Rob Kilfoyle and Manager, Security Training and Standards, Aldo Altomare to come and speak with the group
 - Will organize for the next meeting

Transportation

- goSAFE and shuttle services are being used

Suggestions for Improvement:

- *promote goSAFE and Campus Shuttle together*
- *Shuttle times to run later*

Physical Environment

- Lighting is still an issue – accessible entrances often not properly lit
 - A lighting tour is being organized by the CSC and is currently in the planning stages – please email Elize with specific areas of concern to be added to the lighting tour
- Knowing when things are out of order – particularly highlighted for persons with disabilities who may need to plan ahead
- Mobility and access are important when considering safety – not all measures treated the same way

Communication

- Education around needs for persons with disability – AODA customer service standards
- Consider text messaging as a form of emergency communication; particularly helpful for persons with visual impairments who may not be able to see the LCD screens
- Want to get the information out to as many people as fast as possible – use all forms: email, Twitter, Facebook, LCD screens
- Knowing who to call – or where to go when you have questions or need help
 - Many resources on campus are in a position to help – you can go directly to Security and they will direct you
 - Could be a link on the Safety Website
- Definition of sexual assault still unclear – would also like to know what happens after a report is filed – what are the procedures
 - For information, please visit the Sexual Assault Awareness and Resources page <http://www.yorku.ca/sass/index.html>

Partnerships

- Willingness to partner with safety campaign as well as other student groups – need to find a way to connect – YUConnect doesn't lend itself to this type of communication
- Perhaps having a pool of funds to support partnerships, i.e. if collaborating with safety campaign, perhaps there is money available to print posters
- Stickers and buttons are nice

Safety Campaign

- A presentation has been put together by Rob Castle and Elize Ceschia highlighting the current safety initiatives. This will be presented at next CSC Student Representatives Meeting
 - If you would like to have this presentation made to your club/council/organization, please email Elize to schedule.
- Clubs could be involved in the Safety Campaign

- Could have volunteers going to classrooms – even have goSAFE and Security go to each classroom to speak briefly to the students – like what club or council representatives do when sharing information

Facilitating Dialogue

- Suggestions for reaching out to the students at large proposed included organizing a Town Hall or “speak-out” session
- Creation of a Facebook group (or similar type of forum) might also be helpful to facilitate dialogue for students to communicate and stay connected. There should also be a feature which allows for anonymity
- Student lead group (“safety alliance”) comprised of current student leaders (club and/or council members, for example) to discuss safety concerns and bring forward issues was proposed
 - Perhaps find ways to extend reach of current CSC Student Representative Focus Group
- Online and “in-class” workshops are needed to stimulate the discussion

Action Items

Assigned To	Action Item
Group Members	Forward specific lighting area concerns to Elize. Will be used when planning lighting tour. Include building name, location direction (eg. N, S, SW, NE), lighting concern (eg. No lighting, lights are out, etc.)
Group Members	If you would like to have Rob Castle and Elize Ceschia come to speak with your group about the current safety initiatives underway, please email Elize to arrange a date/time.
Elize	Schedule next meeting with focus on safety initiatives presentation and dialogue with Security personnel.