

Meeting Notes

Meeting	CSC Student Representatives – Safety Initiatives Presentation
Date & Time	Thursday November 15 and Wednesday November 28
Location	Bethune College
Attendance	Michelle Smith, Prakash Amarasooriya, Toby Mayer, Elana Shugar, Ioana Gheorghiu, Matthew Harris, Nadim Lalani, Clifford Baker, Tanya McFadyen, Anita, Joanna Pearce, Bahar Madani, Michelle Wooley, Elize Ceschia, Rob Castle, Rob Kilfoyle, Aldo Altomare, Dragan Spasojevic

Review

- In previous meetings, Security was a common theme when thinking about what make people feel safe.
- Rob Castle, Senior Advisor, Office of the VPFA, Rob Kilfoyle, Director of Security and Aldo Altomare, Manager, Security Training and Standards, were invited to attend 2 CSC Student meetings in November to talk about the various initiatives and answer questions from the group.
- The minutes provide a summary of the two discussions.

Reminder

- If there is a specific discussion point that should be raised at CSC or at the SASC meetings, please let me know and we will ask to add it to the agenda
- At any time – you may approach me and Rob to come and speak directly to your organization to share more safety updates and information

Safety Initiatives Presentation

goSAFE

- Concerns that only 1 staff person has escorted instead of 2
- Questions regarding hiring procedures and training

Follow up – questions about goSAFE service may be emailed to gosafe@yorku.ca or directed to Dan Smith, goSAFE Coordinator.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)

- Questions regarding the VTRA procedures, how the information handled and is privacy and confidentiality of the individual maintained and respected

Follow up:

- VTRA is a methodology that is based on early sharing of information, eliminating information silos and connecting the dots to prevent a serious escalation in violence by implementing mitigation strategies as early in the process as possible.
- The protocol is based on a multi-disciplinary approach, which means members from a variety of stakeholders come together to share and evaluate information. Each member of

the protocol signs confidentiality agreements and are only required to share information that is specific to a threat, which is allowed under the Ontario Privacy regulations.

Communication

- Student groups would be happy to speak to their own organizations about what is happening, however it would be helpful to have something tangible they can show
- There needs to be a central location for the information – information is there but hard to find

Safety App

- York should develop a safety app
- Include phone numbers for Security as well as other important services on campus
- Alarm feature
- Information on important services – like the “Why Work Alone” programs
- Should be an exercise for all students during Orientation to program the important numbers (or download the phone app)

Training

- TA training – speak to the Teaching Commons for more information

Security

- A female officer is on staff at all times
- Security is working on a Standard Operating Procedure for responding to Sexual Assault reports
- Rape prevention/education training is currently not directly addressed. Rob Kilfoyle indicated that they could do better and will review.

Suggestions

- Safety Suggestion Box – pose questions and post answers
- Security should present their Crime Strategies to CSC so the group understand how Security handles various aspects of crime, not just sexual assault

----- Previous Discussion Points – Kept for Reference -----

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	Due Date
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.	