

Meeting Notes

Meeting	CSC Student Representatives – General Meeting
Date & Time	Thursday March 21, 2013 @ 2:30 PM
Location	956 YRT
Attendance	Toby Mayer, Matthew Harris, Elize Ceschia, Margaret Macharia, Melissa Belisle, Prakash Amarasooriya, Satnam Doshnjh, Michelle Smith, Noel Badiou

Safety Initiatives Update

- Safety App
- Contact Information for Students in Crisis
- Safety on Social Media

Safety App

- Available for iPhone, Android and BB users. BB10 version in progress.
- You can download the app from the safety website: www.yorku.ca/safety
- Feedback can be submitted directly from the app, under About/Preferences, or you can email Elize directly.

Contact Information for Students in Crisis

- A document which includes important safety resources for students at York is ready. You can download a copy from the safety site homepage – bottom of the right navigation bar.
- Comment made to perhaps increase font size – Elize to review.

Safety on Social Media

- We are investigating using social media, namely Twitter, to share safety information and help build connections with community members. Students are increasingly using social media to connect and share information, particularly related to safety and therefore it makes sense to explore this opportunity.
- Many other university security departments are on social media.
- This would be a way to share important safety messages, connect with other groups on social media and provide information which could help to clarify issues, or direct folks to on campus resources.
- A working group has been put together and a guidelines and procedures document is being drafted

Guest – Noel Badiou, Director, Centre for Human Rights

- At February's meeting there was a discussion surrounding the role of the CHR and how messages of inclusion, diversity and equity only seem to come from the CHR and not from the university as a whole.
- Noel Badiou was invited to attend the meeting and to highlight the role of the CHR and answer questions from the group.
- **Background:**
 - The CHR mandate focuses on addressing issues of discrimination and harassment based on York-specific policies and the Ontario Human Rights Code

- The CHR is the university's voice on matters related to equity, diversity, inclusion and respect.
- There are 2 main functions of the centre: (1) case resolution and (2) education
 - Case Resolution – any questions and/or concerns about harassment and discrimination are handled by the CHR
 - Cases are handled in a neutral, impartial and private manner
 - The service is available to all York community members (students, faculty and staff)
 - Education
 - The CHR provides training and education to all community members to help foster an inclusive, equitable and respectful learning, teaching and working environment.
 - The CHR liaises with internal as well as external community groups, committees, associations and organizations to gain knowledge and information about emerging issues
- Role of the Ombuds
 - The Ombuds handles procedure & process related concerns where an individual followed all the usual processes but has not been able to resolve the concern because of an alleged unfair or delayed application of such processes.
 - <http://www.yorku.ca/ombuds/index.htm>
- **Questions/Comments:**
 - Still a concern that the messages of equity, diversity, inclusion and respect shouldn't just be coming from CHR but should be apparent from all levels of the university – as a whole
 - Take-away – that the university needs to promote the message and any breach (i.e. when an instance of harassment and discrimination occurs) is handled by the CHR
- Noel mentioned that new material was being prepared and would share this with the group when ready.

Looking forward – Providing Structure

- The group was formed in early Fall 2012 after the first CSC meeting where there was a large student representation. In an effort to keep the students engaged, the CSC Student Representative group was formed.
- The group has been meeting monthly to share concerns about safety, to hear about the safety initiatives York is undertaking and provide feedback regarding these initiatives.
- To keep the group moving forward, it was time to develop a framework
- Following discussion points were made:
 - Keep it open for any student who is interested to join
 - Emphasis on student participation and driven by students – they can express what changes they would like to see

- Members should have a level of commitment – i.e. attending meetings and participating in discussions, becoming involved in initiatives
- Possibility to form working groups to work on these initiatives or create new ones
- The group should have a reporting line to the CSC and provide reports at each meeting
- See this group as the start of the student ambassador program – this piece speaks to ownership and recognition – begin to feel that contributions are accomplishing an objective – that there is a reason to participate in the group
- Also important that the group continue to meet during the spring and summer months to set objectives and be ready for new membership in September
- Elize to draft a terms of reference for the group and will present at April’s meeting

Green Dot Program – “No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something”

- Elize spoke about the Green Dot program which will be coming to York over the next year.
- Green Dot is a strategy to help reduce power based personal violence (a form of violence that has as a primary motivator the assertion of power, control and intimidation in order to harm another).
- It is based on active bystander principles and research as well as personal experience of the creators who have a foundation in violence prevention work. The intent is to reach the most number of people, get them connected to the issue and provide them with the knowledge and skills to foster sustained behaviour change that will result in a reduction of violence.
- It is complementary to (not a replacement of) current violence prevention work and anti-oppression training already being done on campus.
- For more information, please contact Elize

Next Meeting

- Complete the doodle poll for the April meeting
- Agenda items proposed:
 - Review of group terms of reference
 - Other items from the group