

Community Safety Council Meeting

January 21st, 2014

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

519 Kaneff Tower

~

Minutes

In attendance: John Amanatides (Chair), Anna Ainswoth, Aldo Altomare, Prakash Amarasooriya, Noël Badiou, Robert Castle, Elize Ceschia, Mikhaela Gray, Debbie Hansen, Craig Heron, Mandi Hickman, Riyaz Hussein, Joanne Huy, Patricia Lakin-Thomas, Christian Marjollet, Dimitra Markatas, Euan McDermott, Anne Moore, Lesley Powell, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Catherine Salole, Elana Shugar, Steve Sicluna, Sean Siddik, Jeff Stager, Sunil Taneja, Dragan Spasojevic, Anestis Toptsis, Brandon Vieira, Sheila Wilmot

Regrets: Kathryn Als, Aileen Ashman, Karanjit Bhathal, Ceceil Beckford, Kathy Branton, Tomorr Cerriku, Glenn Cumming, Isha DeCoito, Paul Elliot, Lorna Erwin, Ioana Gheorghiu, Paula Gowdie Rose, Craig Heron, Matthew Harris, Sgt. Stephen Hicks, Despina Ikik, Shazia Hafiji, Scott Jarvis, Debbie Kee, Sarah Khan, Lluvia Machuca Ruelas, Rosanna Furgiuele, James Nixon, Sal Paneduro, Tka Pinnock, Helen Psathas, Dewan Rahman, Soyinka Reid, Manuel Rodriguez, Ray Rogers, Sheila Shahrokhi, Bob Smith, Jason Springer, Marc Wilchesky, Terry Wright, Amber Wynne, Jessica Thyriar, Calvin Traynor, Marzena Tyszkiewicz, Donya Zayee

Chair's Welcome - Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair John Amanatides welcomed those in attendance. It was MOVED by Debbie Hansen and SECONDED by Steve Sicluna "That the minutes of November 26th, 2013 meeting be approved as distributed".

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Lighting concerns for the area north of York Lanes behind Kaneff Tower: Steve Sicluna confirmed that the lighting levels are satisfactory.
- The public address system in York Lanes is not loud enough: Robert Castle confirmed the volume level has been adjusted.

Student Committee Report

Draft Equity Statement

Purpose: The CSC Student Committee identified a need to include York University's commitment to equity in course syllabi. The Committee feels that the equity statement reflects the responsibility all community members have to create and uphold an environment where all members can learn and grow. It can also serve as an opportunity for understanding and an avenue to bring the discussion into the classroom for further engagement.

Process: The CSC Student Committee reviewed the Senate equity statement drafted in 2009 which is also included in the current University Academic Plan. The next step is for the CSC to review the draft Equity Statement and provide their feedback.

Action Items: At the next CSC meeting, the Council will vote on whether or not the statement is approved. If the motion is passed, the Chair and Vice-Chair will move forward with presenting the statement to the Senate Committee.

Leslie Sanders, Chair, Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee will be invited either to the CSC Audit Sub Committee or to the Student Sub Committee meeting.

CSC Member Report

The following concerns were reported:

- At the French department, the computers are being used by cleaning staff after staff leave for the day.
- Lighting concerns at the Winters College.
- Smoking in the washrooms at the Stong College.
- Effective communication to the community after the occurrence of an incident for reassurance.
- Student concerns about weather conditions, ice storm, during the exam period (Dec. 21st, 22nd)

Response: The weather protocol is complicated. The University was monitoring the weather during the whole week. A decision to close the University is based on inspections throughout the campus. The status of other institutions is also considered. The specific case was even more complicated since balancing the conditions on campus and the accommodation of exams was required. The exams scheduled during the weekend were well attended (90% attendance). Only specific areas (Rexall Centre) were affected.

- Student concerns about the shuttle bus in terms of the number of people allowed on the bus.
- Bilingual Community Safety mobile application: looking at the cost effectiveness of having a bilingual application.
- The condition of the pathways at the East end of the Village: the land boundaries need to be identified.

CSC Audit Sub Committee Report

The CSC Audit Sub Committee with Chair Dr. Anne Moore has met twice. The Committee has identified the guests to be invited to the 2014 meetings. The Management Safety Committee provided a detailed update on METRAC recommendations. The updated METRAC Safety Audit Recommendation Progress Report, which will be AODA compliant, will be available online in the next couple of weeks. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled on February 12th, 2014. GoSAFE representatives have been confirmed as guests at the February meeting.

CSC Security and Police Presence on Campus

Aldo Atomare, Director, Security Services, outlined the role of York Security Services. Security officers have the same powers as other citizens and governed by policies approved by York University. Security Officers are highly trained with focus on problem solving. The service provided is proactive in nature, prevent emergency situations, and community based, which means that the York Security Services collaborate and work closely with other groups, both inside and outside of the York community. Security Services is an essential response centre that provides service response, emergency response in liaison with Toronto Police Services as well as pro-active patrolling, pro-active event planning and safety programs.

Aldo Altomare introduced the new inspector of 31 Division, Riyaz Hussein. Inspector Riyaz Hussein recognized the phenomenal job that Security Services have done. The goal of TPS is to ensure a safe and secure environment for everyone. Four Police Officers and one Sergeant are assigned to the neighborhood of York University Heights. The Police Officers are on the Keele campus patrolling 2-4hrs per day, listening to community, providing resources and offering investigation when invited by Security. The Glendon Campus belongs to the 53 division and currently, there is no regular Police patrol but they respond when called.

A discussion followed and the following areas of concern were identified:

- Police intervention can lead to unnecessary escalation. How is the decision to involve TPS made?

Response: Designated offenses and certain instances whether criminal charges are pursued or not require police intervention. The risk to the community is also assessed. The Security Services personnel is well trained but not to the level of Police Officers.

Sexual harassment is not a criminal matter unless it contains sexual assault. In sexual assault cases, trained officers are assigned to investigate. The survivor's request is central to whether police should be contacted or not. A sexual assault protocol that includes the best reporting practices is being developed.

In mental health cases, police intervention is requested depending on the risk involved. Security officers receive de-escalation training. There is no protocol on mental health issues at the present time. Trained nursing staff work with TPS in de-escalation skills.

CSC Student Forum

The CSC Student Forum on Students Rights and Responsibilities will take place on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm at the Life Sciences Building (LS106). It is an opportunity to help inform students of their rights and responsibilities as outlined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The forum will also provide an opportunity to speak to topics affecting students who live in The Village.

The following groups will give a 15 minute presentation: Office of Student Conflict Resolution, Osgoode Mediation Centre, and Toronto Police Services. Campus partners who have been

invited include: CDS, CHR, CLASP, Community Relations, ResLife, SCOLAPS, Security, SASSL, SCLD, TBLGAY.

Announcements

February is Mental Health Awareness month and a series of events will be taking place on campus. The York U Let's Talk Mental Health Day is on January 28th, 2014.

Working Group Discussion

Working group discussion followed. The working group notes are included in the Appendix.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Appendix

Working Group Notes

1. Beyond METRAC working group - Preparing for the subway

Members: Christian Marjollet (facilitator), John Amanatides, Aldo Altomare, Anne Moore, Anestis Toptsis, Dragan Spasojevic

Discussion Points

- TTC, Viva, Go, all the transit systems have their own security for their vehicles and property. At the present time it's only vehicles.
- With the subway TTC and York are talking about extending transit security about a few meters around the buildings instead of just the TTC property.
- Aldo Altomare says at the present time they concentrate on Pan Am games; Pan Am has their own security. But York may require some security upgrade infrastructure.
- They have started swipe cards (Doors with cards) in complex 1. Have one single card for everything (library, doors, etc.)
- They target busy times to have more presence of police on campus. The bulk of people is Monday - Friday 10:00AM-10:00PM.

2. Communication & Engagement Working Group Notes

Members: Elize Ceschia (facilitator), Prakash Amarasooriya, Rob Castle, Ioana Gheorghiu, Mandi Hickman, Patricia Lakin-Thomas, Lesley Powell, Sean Siddik,

Discussion Points

The group took the notes from the November 26th meeting and began to outline 4 key themes:

1. Statistics
2. Safety Communication via Social Media
3. Security Bulletins
4. External Community Involvement and Engagement

Statistics

- Availability of statistical information from other post-secondary institutions and being able to provide a comparison based on evidence
 - York does provide a statistical report available on York Security's website
 - Weekly incidents occurring on York property are available in the Weekly Security Incident Log on the York Security website
 - The lack of data from other post-secondary institutions coupled with the variance in reporting is a challenge
 - Possibility of putting a FIPPA request to TPS for information
 - Possible recommendation that the President start/engage in a conversation with post-secondary institution in the GTA to address the feasibility of developing a common understanding of safety/security reporting across institutions.

- This picks up on the way reporting is conducted in the US based on the Clery Act.
- Data received can help identify locations with increased number of incidents, where to deploy resources and allow community members to assess the impact to their daily activity.

Safety Communication via Social Media

- Feasibility of communicating safety related information, for example Bulletins, through social media channels.
- Other post-secondary institutions have Twitter accounts for their Security/Campus Police departments. Used in a variety of ways.
- Opportunity to connect with community
- Considerations – who moderates discussion? How do we moderate? How do we mobilize and engage student groups?

Security Bulletins

- When do we communicate and what do we communicate
- Sending out follow-up information, for example if an arrest has been made

External Community Involvement and Engagement

- How do we communicate to/with the broader community?
- What happens if a local school, for example Shoreham, is in lockdown – how do we receive that communication and notify our community?

Next Meeting

CSC working groups are encouraged to meet once more before the next CSC meeting in March. The group decided to meet the week after Reading Week. Elize will be sending a meeting notice.

3. Culture of Safety Working Group Notes

Members: Anna Ainswoth, Noel Badiou, Tomorr Cerriku, Mikhaela Gray, Joanne Huy, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Elana Shugar, Sunil Taneja, Brendon Vieira, Jessica Thyriar, Jia Xu, Marc Wilchesky

- Clarification
 - What is sexual assault?
- Identify gaps and barriers in training and awareness
- Build solidarity around these issues
- We need to support each other and our community
- Better utilize resources, programming, and supports that are in place and build together
- Use incentives to get the community involved
- Outreach at events
 - Pub nights
 - Clubs
 - Academic orientation

- Make REDI mandatory for students
 - REDI is only in English
 - Promote REDI through YUStart
 - Orientation leaders should all take REDI
- AVP Harassment Resources
- Training around sexual violence should be discussed with collective bargaining for CUPE
 - Trainings should be made mandatory
 - All employees should have to take REDI
 - Build on REDI for more expansive conversations around these issues
- Critical skills building
 - Foundational courses should incorporate these issues
- Workshops addressing sexual violence could be collaboratively be developed with student groups / organizations and the Centre for Human Rights
 - Peer to peer learning at times can be more effective at shifting or instilling cultural norms and values
 - SASSL, Peer Health and Promotions, YFS, DPET etc. could lead workshops
- These issues need to permeate everyone's lives
- Culture of Safety
 - Professors could talk to students about safety
 - Offer information and resources
 - Build a sense of community in the classroom
 - Building a sense of community caring and engagement
- Presentations in classrooms
 - Community service groups could come and do presentations about the services on campus
 - This would familiarize students with services and build community
 - Discussion a while back on creating a video for professors to play that would introduce services on campus
- Faculty members could play a large role in building community