

Community Safety Council Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2017

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

519 Kaneff Tower

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In attendance: Janet Mosher (Chair), Israa Izzeddin (Vice-Chair), Aldo Altomare, John Amanatides, Katherine Branton, Meghan Carrington, Robert Castle, Tomorr Cerriku, Regan Mancini for Michael Charles, Teresa DuCroix, Scarlett Farquhar, Mikhaela Gray, Debbie Hansen, Matt Harris, Andrew Little, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Anne Moore, Peter Mumford, Melissa Qi, Jack Rozdilsky, Ray Rogers, Elisa Romano, Adam Saleh, Samina Sami, Susan Seaby, Elana Shugar, Dan Smith, Sunil Taneja, Raj Virk for Sheila Wilmot, Terry Wight, Mark Wilchesky, Patricia Yeboah

Guests: Pat Quinn

Regrets: Uzo Anucha, Siraz Chatha, Brandon Cheong, Shelby Crawford, Stephen Dewar, Colleen Duncan, Ahmed Eldyasti, Paul Elliot, Meagan Farriss, Katie Florko, Katherine Fowley, Krista GoKool, Rawan Habib, Amanda Hickman, Sgt. Stephen Hicks, Maharshi Jani, Debbie Kee, Manuela Lefranc, Karen Legrais, Michael Mahon, , John Mayberry, Euan McDermott, Ross McMillan, Lesley Powell, Helen Psathas, Brendan Schulz for Catherine Salole, Steve Sicluna, Bob Smith, Dragan Spasojevic, Mark Subetki-Tan, Ron Tapley, Cheryl van Daalen-Smith, Whitney Van, , Alexandra Williams, Francois Yabit, Mack Young

Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the Council to the last meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year. Janet and Israa opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. The inclusive space reflected in the acknowledgement is relevant to the work of the Council and to safety as inclusion. The Chair thanked all the members for their interest in safety issues and participation on the Council, as well as for their dedication to making York a safe and inclusive space. Janet also thanked the working group leads and committee chairs for their leadership and work on the Council and Mikhaela for her support of the Council and committees.

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the March 20, 2017 meeting. Members who had not joined a working group were encouraged to participate in one of the group discussions during the meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of January 19, 2017 were moved and seconded. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved as presented. One member abstained from the vote.

CSC Annual Report

Janet presented an overview of the 2016-2017 CSC Annual Report. Each year the Council generates recommendations through the working groups and committees which are sent to the President and Vice-Chancellor Mamdouh Shoukri through an annual report. When recommendations are approved, they are followed-up and tracked by the Safety Audit Committee.

The work of the committees and working groups will continue for the next 6-8 weeks. The recommendations from the working groups and committees will be finalized by late April/early May. In early May the working groups and committees will review the recommendations and identify overlap. A draft report will be circulated to all members of Council for feedback by late May.

Questions regarding the membership of the Community Safety Council have been raised this past academic year. There are community group representatives listed on the Council membership for groups that no longer exist. A couple of groups on campus have been identified as missing from the list. Working groups will discuss concerns/gaps related to the membership.

At prior meetings and during consultations, CSC members have discussed interest in determining the relationship between the Council and the Community Safety Department moving forward.

CSC Safety Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee met with Samina to discuss the future relationship between the Council and the Community Safety Department, specifically in regards to the recommendations that are generated each year by the Council. Coming out of this discussion was the suggestion that going forward Community Safety Department staff members should attend working group meetings so that they are part of the recommendation formation process. This would help to ensure that the recommendations sent to the President are implementable and that resources are available.

Community Safety Department Consultation Update (Samina)

Samina thanked Janet and Israa for all of their work and leadership on the Council for the 2016-2017. Samina also thanked the Community Safety staff for their efforts and said goodbye to Dan Smith who is leaving Go Safe.

Samina's presentation focused on the Community Safety consultations which included an update on emerging themes. The level of engagement with the community during the consultations was very high which reinforced the fact that safety is important to the York community. The emerging themes centred on service enhancements, community engagement, communication, prevention, coordination of safety initiatives, and measuring and reporting on reports. Council members are encouraged to complete the online feedback form which can be found at the following link:

<http://safety.yorku.ca/communityresources/1831-2/>. For further information, please see the attached presentation.

There was a discussion of communication concerns related to the Glendon College bomb threat. Council members were informed that it was a unique situation where Toronto Police Services took a different approach to address the situation than normal. The Community Safety department was in communication with the Principal's office and shared information with the community via email and the York website. The evacuation was not needed as the incident was reported as hate graffiti. There is a town hall scheduled to take place at Glendon to debrief with the community about the event, continue the conversation, and address concerns.

In regards to emergency procedures at the Glendon campus, there are LED screens in both Glendon residences. Another screen is being set-up in the Centre of Excellence. A PA system will be installed on campus during the fire system upgrades within residence buildings.

There was also a discussion of the social dimensions of safety, the increase in hate-related activity and social tensions at York and elsewhere, and how choices are made to proactively engage with the community on local, national, or global events that may have taken place. The decision is made collaboratively with the Centre for Human Rights, Community Safety Department, Vice-Provost Student's office, and the Office of the President. A strategic approach is necessary. Samina is meeting with students from various religious groups on campus to discuss their safety concerns and threats that they have received. It was suggested that a working group for 2017-2018 could be focused on the social dimensions of safety.

Sexual Violence Policy Update (Rob)

Rob Castle provided an update on the sexual violence policy. The University is establishing a stand-alone office to address sexual violence on-campus. There are two prospective locations for the office. Additional staff members are being hired to support

the operations of the office. Specialized counselling services regarding sexual violence will be made available. The employee assistance program will be extended. The policy allows for internal and external investigators. For an interim period, the University will rely on external investigators until there is a roster of fully trained internal investigators.

Physical Safety Presentation (Terry)

Terry Wright, Pat Quinn, and Andrew Little presented on physical safety (please see attached presentation). Pat Quinn provided an update on lighting. It was noted that there would be a re-vitalization of the Common underway in the next 12-18 months. Terry spoke to CPTED updates on campus. Andrew Little discussed access services and how security is assisting with the CPTED audits.

Working Group Break-Out Discussions

Independent working group discussion followed. The working groups met to discuss goals for the end of the year and recommendations that will be included in the 2016-2017 CSC Annual Report.

Working Groups Report Back

Safety Communication and Outreach (Matt Harris):

The working group has followed up on previous recommendations and has determined that there is a constructive and clear path moving forward. The working group has become obsolete.

Safety Education and Training (Elana Shugar):

The working group has a lot of overlap with other groups. The working group is re-envisioning its mandate.

Faculty Working Group (Ray Rogers):

The faculty working group would like to see a staff member in the safety department designated to faculty members that have questions regarding classroom safety until faculty members are trained on safety issues.

Physical Safety (Terry Wright):

The working group provides an effective conduit for physical safety discussion. CSC feedback on the analysis and audits that are conducted on campus are useful. In the future, the working group could help set priorities such as, identifying the finances required for specific upgrades.

Student Sub-Committee Report (Israa Izzeddin)

At the last student sub-committee meeting, the students discussed frustrations with crimes taking place within the student body, racism, and incidents that were not acknowledged by the wider York community. The sub-committee would like to recommend that a scholarship be created that is specific for the LGBTQ community of students. The sub-committee is also discussing its mandate and how to increase the interest of students in participating. The sub-committee would like to create safe space for students to voice their concerns and feel comfortable attending these meetings.

Other Business

The Chair informed the Council that other ideas and comments about working group structures can be shared with her through email after the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.