

Community Safety Council

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2017

1:30pm-3:30pm

280N York Lanes

In attendance: Lorne Foster (Chair), Dominic Ong (Vice-Chair), Gord Albright, Aldo Altomore, John Amanatides, Melissa Belisle, Robert Castle, Frances Chan, Michael Charles, Amenda Chow, Teresa DuCroix, Scarlett Farquhar, Nicholas Filicetti, Mikhaela Gray, James Guthrie, Kat Kahnert-Wolchak, Awani Kulkarni, Michael Mahon, Rachel Mansell, John Mayberry, Ross McMillan, Naomi Norquay, Lillian Nguyen, Sajeth Paskaran, Pablo Ramos, Samina Sami, Susan Seaby, Brendan Schultz, Sean Siddick, Cheryl van Daalen-Smith, Marc Wilchesky, Terry Wright, Janice Walls, Sheila Wilmot, Patricia Yeboah, Trevor York

Guests: Bria Hamilton, York Affordable Housing Student Committee

Regrets: Habbiba Ahmed, Christina Amico, Pascal Arseneau, Amal Awini, Saptarishi Bandopadhyay, Katherine Branton, David Coward, Dasola Dina, Paul Elliot, Debbie Hansen, Amanda Hickman, Andrea Kosavic, Sébastien LaLonde, Andrew Little, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, Aerilyn Medina, Anne Moore, Peter Mumford, Chantal Persad, Lesley Powell, Helen Psathas, Roshni Raveenthiran, Jamie Russell, Steve Sicluna, Bob Smith, Jelena Stakic, Estair Van Wagner, Maiesha Zarin

Chair's remarks:

Chair Foster opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. The Chair welcomed the Council to the last meeting of 2017. The Chair gave an overview of the meeting agenda and introduced Bria Hamilton as the guest speaker. The current secretary to the Council, Mikhaela Gray in the Office of the President, will be replaced by Melissa Belisle in the Community Safety Department. The Chair welcomed Melissa to the role and thanked Mikhaela for her support to the Council.

Meeting minutes:

The minutes of October 23, 2017 were moved and seconded. A grammar-related item was revised on page 2. The discussion point on page 2 was also revised to capture the intent of the contribution more effectively. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved as distributed and amended.

There was no additional business arising from minutes.

Community Safety Update and Q&A:

Samina apologized for leaving the last meeting early and informed the Council that it was due to an emergency on campus. Former CSC members were distributed the draft community safety strategic plan initiatives in September and they were asked for further input. New members were circulated the draft strategic initiatives prior to the meeting. Samina provided an update on the role, responsibilities and initiatives of the Community Safety Department. A question and answer period followed.

During the question and answer period, it was suggested by a Council member that the Community Safety Department collaborate with the department of women studies and other faculty members who work with homeless youth and social workers. In addition, there was a discussion on homelessness on campus. A pan-university approach is needed to discuss homelessness. Council members raised concerns with student and staff homelessness on campus. Statistics on homelessness at York are available. It was noted that SVRO has emergency funding for students who are in homeless situations. A member raised the concern that student do not want to access services because of stigma.

Student Sub-Committee Update:

Dominic Ong, Vice-Chair of the Council, provided an update on behalf of the student sub-committee. The students met on November 14, 2017 to discuss their concerns and goals for the academic year.

Discussion points included:

- Notifications for security bulletins. The students felt that in 2015-2016 there were not as many emails being sent out. They wanted to know whether it was the result of less communication or policy changes;
- GOSafe and Security concerns regarding accessibility. The students suggested that there could be more ways for students with exceptionalities to contact University services. For example, a hearing-impaired student cannot call the staff or use the phones on campus walk which impedes the individual from accessing GO-Safe. There is also a lack of access for students who cannot walk long distances;
- Access to buildings on campus after operating hours;
- The bridge and stairs are not fully accessible near Calumet. In addition, when the building is locked, the elevator is not available. Many buttons for washrooms are not accessible.

The student sub-committee would like to connect with University staff during the academic year to discuss their concerns. Samina acknowledged the importance of following up with these concerns. It was suggested that the critical disability department also be consulted.

There was a discussion regarding the accessibility of Calumet and the process to get the issue resolved. The issue has been raised with CSBO. A question was raised regarding the timeline for implementation and approval process. There was also a discussion on the access control to buildings after hours. Several senior administrators are discussing the students' concern and are working together to see what is possible.

York Affordable Housing Committee:

Bria Hamilton provided an update to the Council on behalf of the York Affordable Housing Committee.

The committee is composed of faculty and students. York housing includes residence buildings, the quad and village housing. The committee is working with consultant Tim Welsh on a business plan. Next steps include disseminating a survey to staff, faculty, and students to better understand what they want regarding affordable housing. The committee is hoping to secure seed funding from the York administration. The York Affordable Housing Committee began its work in 2016. The CMHC definition of affordable housing is 30% below average cost in area. A number of the units in the housing complex would be accessible and will be accounted for in the building design. Bria and Kat will connect after the meeting to discuss accessibility. Some of the housing units will be reserved explicitly for students and other units will be available to the general community.

A Council member raised a concern regarding the lack of turnover within affordable housing complexes and suggested that the housing committee develop an exit strategy. Another member discussed the importance of addressing how co-op housing becomes part of the social network. Gord Albright is the Harry Crowe co-op representative on the CSC and he offered to have further dialogue with the housing committee regarding this.

The York Affordable Housing committee has met with the York University Development Corporation and were advised to contact them further in their planning process. The committee is looking to schedule a meeting with Dr. Lenton to discuss their proposal. It was suggested that they meet with other University stakeholders before meeting with the President.

The Chair thanked Bria for her presentation and for bringing forward this innovative idea to the Council.

Facilitated Discussion Part 2

Samina provided a tour of the Community Safety Office to the Chair and Vice-Chair. She encouraged all safety members to visit the space. Samina will share dates for tours of the Community Safety Office with Melissa, who will circulate to the Council.

Samina provided an overview of the draft initiatives from the 75 consultations. Lorne noted that the goal of the academic year is for the Council to determine how they are going to work with the Community Safety Department based on the strategy that was developed. The Council needs to review its mandate in order to determine how it will work in conjunction with the department. A review needs to be undertaken of the operations and structure of the Council. Working groups may or may not be established this year. The Chair read the current CSC mandate as written in the terms of reference to the Council.

It was noted that if working groups do not have a Community Safety Department representative than recommendations brought forward may not be feasible or may result in duplication. The working groups need to be considered in relationship to the strategy rather than working independently. It needs to be determined how the working groups will be structured. The initiatives outlined in the strategy are complex: how can they be implemented and how can the Council support this process through collaborating with campus experts? The Council needs to review its responsibilities and the CSC membership.

Inclusion Training

The Chair thanked Council members for completing the inclusion training survey. The CSC inclusion training is scheduled for December 4, 2017 from 9:30am-11:00am and will be focused on challenging organization structures. The session will address systems, overarching issues and best practices moving forward. The Chair encouraged all Council members to attend.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:21pm.