

Community Safety Council

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2019

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Founders Assembly Hall, Room 152

In attendance: Lorne Foster, Neville McGuire, Adam Brihmi, Sean Siddik, Debbie Hansen, Amal Awini, Michael Mahon, Teresa DuCroix, Scarlett Farquhar, Daryl Nauman, Saptarishi Bandopadhyay, John Mayberry, Aldo Altomare, Susan Seaby, Maria Aurora Nunez, Annelies Cooper, Azinwi Saningong.

1. Opening Remarks

Lorne Foster, Chair, welcomed members. He noted that at its last meeting the Council had decided to proceed with a meeting in August even though the attendance would be low. The Council wanted to hold the meeting in order to finalize the proposed revised mandate/membership and to discuss safety initiatives for the upcoming school term.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without revisions.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved, seconded and carried that the May 24, 2019 meeting minutes be approved.

4. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Co-chair position

It was agreed that discussion about appointment of the student co-chair position would take place at the next Council meeting when more members are present.

A question was asked about whether student groups are on the mailing list. It was confirmed that all student groups that are members of the Council are on the mailing list.

It was suggested that the Community Safety Department send an email to the student groups represented on the Council to inform them that the student co-chair position will be confirmed at the next meeting and to contact the Department if they are interested in this position.

Glendon Community Safety Working Group

A question was asked about the timing of the formation of the Glendon Community Safety Working Group. It was indicated that terms of reference for the Working Group have been drafted and are being circulated within Glendon College for approval. Pending approval of the terms of reference, it is anticipated that the Working Group's first meeting will take place in October.

5. Community Safety Council – Revised Mandate and Membership

It was moved, seconded and carried that the proposed revised mandate and membership be approved.

L. Foster requested that Neville McGuire share the document with President Lenton for her consideration and approval.

6. Community Safety Leadership Awards

Susan Seaby, Community Safety Department, spoke about the proposed new Safety Leadership Awards initiative developed by an ad hoc sub-committee of Council. She thanked sub-committee members Teresa DuCroix and Nicole Arsenault for their assistance in developing the outline of the award program that was distributed to Council members in advance of the meeting.

Council members were supportive of the proposed initiative, and agreed with the recommendation that the sub-committee be continued to assist in reviewing nominations and recommending award recipients. Council members were asked to contact S. Seaby (sseaby@yorku.ca) if they are interested in joining the sub-committee. It was noted that ideally the sub-committee would be comprised of student, staff and faculty representatives.

A question was asked about whether the award information will be available in French. It was confirmed that the information would be available in both French and English.

7. Community Safety Week

S. Seaby informed members that Community Safety Week will take place October 21 to 25, 2019. The Community Safety Department will be holding an open house and will be tabling at Keele and Glendon campuses. Other organizations, such as the Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Transit Commission and Health Education, will be taking part in the tabling. They will be distributing information on topics such as drug and alcohol safety; transit ticket fraud; and landlord responsibilities for fire safety.

Daryl Nauman noted that these organizations will also be working with Residence Life that week and that the Community Safety Department is involved.

Azinwi Saningong, York Federation of Students (YFS), suggested that the YFS and the Community Safety Department collaborate during Community Safety Week on outreach to students. S. Seaby indicated that the Department would welcome an opportunity to work with YFS on this and she will follow up with Azinwi to discuss this further.

8. Roundtable – Information Sharing/Emerging Issues

L. Foster noted that this is an important segment of each meeting and an opportunity for Council members to discuss upcoming initiatives and emerging issues of concern to their group/department.

8. i. Student Collaboration with Security Services/Community Safety Department

A. Saningong noted that many of the student clubs represent communities that are often marginalized, at higher risk of safety incidents, and may distrust police/security services. She noted that many students may not know about the behind-the-scenes work that York's Security Services staff do on a daily basis to support safety, and she suggested that a meeting be held in October with YFS student groups, security services and others from the Community Safety Department to discuss opportunities for education and relationship building.

S. Seaby and Aldo Altomare, Director Security Services indicated that they would welcome an opportunity for further collaboration, and will reach out to set up the proposed meeting. They emphasized that collaboration with student groups is a priority for the Department and has been an ongoing focus of the Department's outreach efforts.

8. ii. Wildlife Safety

Michael Mahon, Canadian Union of Public Employees 1356, suggested that consideration be given to wildlife safety issues, possibly in partnership with Toronto Animal Services. He noted there have been incidents of community members being injured because they are unaware of the dangers of approaching wildlife on campus (e.g. racoons, skunks and geese). He indicated that Keele campus has coyotes in the evenings, which can be dangerous (e.g. for small dogs). It is important that community members understand that the animals, though cute, are wild and to maintain a safe distance. He also noted that it is important for community members to be aware that they should contact Security Services if they see an animal in distress. There was a recent incident of a possum in distress and many people ignored it and walked by. It is important that community members not approach an animal in distress, but report it so that the animal can be assisted.

8. iii. Financial and Employment Fraud and other issues.

There was a discussion about a recent pyramid scheme and past employment scams on campus. It was noted that York community members often are not aware that they should be contacting Security Services when they have concerns or become aware of these

types of incidents occurring on York's campuses. It was also noted that students often leave their laptops unattended at the library, not realizing that there is a high potential for theft. It was suggested that these types of issues be highlighted in the Community Safety Department's public education efforts.

8. iv. Construction site safety

There was a discussion about near misses involving construction sites and the need for better awareness and actions to prevent injuries of workers and pedestrians. It was noted that pedestrians often do not pay attention or intentionally ignore notices (e.g. caution tape). Council members brainstormed ways that safety could be enhanced. Ideas included (a) implementing fines, (b) thanking people for respecting the barriers, (c) promotional materials that are relateable to community members (e.g. "please be careful, my mom/dad works here" posters). L. Foster asked members to give further thought to these ideas and indicated that this issue would be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

8. v. Snow removal/Icy Walkways

There was a discussion about the dangers of snowy/icy walkways. It was acknowledged that York's campuses are huge and there are a lot of challenges in keeping walkways clear, especially in extreme weather. There are also challenges in getting community members to stick to cleared walkways when the weather is bad and a shortcut is needed. Suggestions for increased signage and priority setting for particular walkways were discussed. There was a lot of interest in this topic, and L. Foster stated that it would be added to the agenda of the next Council meeting. Facility Services will be asked to attend the meeting for this discussion and to provide information on current procedures.

9. Upcoming Meetings

L. Foster proposed that the next meetings be held on the following dates and asked if there were any concerns:

- November 15, 2019 – 11 am to 1 pm
- February 27, 2020 – 11 am to 1 pm
- May 28, 2020 – 11 am to 1 pm

There was a discussion about whether a meeting in May would be problematic given that many student groups will be in the process of transitioning to new executives. In the end, it was agreed that a meeting in May could be beneficial if former and new executives both come to the meeting. This would provide the Council with an opportunity to thank the former executives and welcome the new executives. The Community Safety Department will send a notice to Council members so that they can note the dates of the upcoming meetings in their calendars.

L. Foster asked Council members to contact him with any suggestions they may have for the agendas of upcoming meetings.

10. Closing Remarks

L. Foster thanked members and wished everyone an enjoyable Labour Day holiday weekend.