

## Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Full Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7, 2025

### 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Chair Melissa Begg welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting's objectives.
- Review previously approved updates to the IPSAC Charge
- Conversation Guidelines were reiterated:
  - Challenge the idea, not the person
  - Speak from personal experience
  - Listen to learn; bring curiosity
  - Share air time

### 2. Review of Feedback from IPSAC Portal

Discussion Points:

- Campus Safety & Security
  - Strong frustration over restricted campus access and increased security. Security and ID policies are seen as barriers to inclusivity for some.
  - Some feel Columbia no longer feels open and welcoming, with security creating a hostile atmosphere.
  - Others believe heightened security is necessary but want more transparency about long-term plans.
  - Calls for clearer policies on campus policing and security enforcement.
- Student Protests & Administration Response
  - Highly polarizing views: Some see administrative overreach, while others demand stricter consequences for disruptions.
  - Concerns over bias in protest enforcement and unclear disciplinary actions.
  - Growing division within the campus community, with calls for a fairer, more transparent approach.
- Faculty & Staff Concerns
  - Faculty and staff seek guidance on managing classroom disruptions.
  - Faculty feel excluded from key policy decisions, leading to distrust and disengagement.
  - Frustration over security expenses amid academic funding cuts.
- General Campus Experience
  - Students feel less safe, less engaged, and disconnected from campus life.
  - Growing disillusionment with leadership, citing poor communication and lack of accountability.
  - Concerns that Columbia no longer fosters an open, vibrant academic environment.
  - Strong calls for greater transparency, inclusion, and student-faculty engagement.

Key Action Items:

- Gerald Lewis to follow up with relevant offices regarding long-standing concerns.
- Melissa Begg and Gerald Lewis to explore improvements in emergency communication protocols.

### **3. Vice President for Public Safety Report (Gerald Lewis)**

Updates Provided:

- Ritz Carlton Customer Service Training: Begins March 19-21. Public Safety staff and contract guards will participate. Committee members are invited - contact Jorge Farina or Matthew Childress for information on how to participate. Future training will be scheduled as those who are trained can become trainers.
- Campus Entry Tents: Installed for better working conditions for security staff, not as an added security measure.
- Bacchanal and Commencement Preparations: Planning is underway. Commencement is back on Morningside campus, although 2 schools using Baker Field.
- ICE Protocol: Public Safety following protocol. A guide is available online at this link: <https://publicsafety.columbia.edu/content/protocol-potential-visits-campus-us-immigration-and-customs-enforcement-ice-agents>
- Public Safety Training: Ongoing training for officers designated as peace officers. No implementation timeline confirmed yet.
- Campus Access Committee: Ongoing discussions regarding restricted gate access and potential adjustments.

Key Action Items:

- Circle back on future Ritz Carlton Customer Service Training, beyond Columbia's spring break
- Follow-up on peace officer training implementation timeline.
- Collaboration with the Campus Access Committee

### **4. Group Discussion: Open Forum Design**

Discussion Points:

- Initial concept stemmed from an individual request to meet with IPSAC.
- Some members questioned whether an open forum with IPSAC would be beneficial.
- Suggestions included direct engagement between Public Safety and the community instead of a formal forum.
- Other committees, such as the Rules Committee and Campus Access Committee, may have overlapping interests (i.e. masking policy, gate access, etc.)

Outcome:

- Consensus leaned against hosting an IPSAC-led open forum.
- Gerald Lewis expressed willingness of Public Safety to meet with groups.

Key Action Items:

- No formal open forum to be planned at this time.
- IPSAC will consider opportunities to collaborate with other committees on relevant topics.

## **5. Additional Topics & Next Steps**

- Emergency Communications Coordination: Concerns were raised about inconsistencies in emergency notifications between Columbia and Barnard. Jorge Farina clarified that, at this time, Barnard receives Columbia's emergency communications, but Columbia does not receive Barnard's communication streams.
- Potential Additional Meeting in April: The committee will explore scheduling an additional meeting before the next scheduled session in May.
- Response Team Progress: No current updates. Dean Begg will follow up.