IPSAC Meeting Notes

November 15, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, and aims for our time
- Follow up from October Meeting
- Review of Feedback from IPSAC Portal
- VP's Report
- Next Steps and close

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   - Dean Begg opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
   - Brief discussion ensued following a request for visitors to join committee meetings. Proposal was made to host an open forum once a semester in lieu of a regular committee meeting. There was also discussion of sending proxies and new members to the committee. Committee agreed to discuss these topics at a later date.
2. **Follow up from October Meeting**
   - Brief discussion of moving December date to host presentation by EVP Greenberg's team on research on campus public safety programs.
   - Dean Begg reminded the committee of the task to review Public Safety's Annual Report. Discussion will be included in next month's agenda. VP Lewis shared that the report is mandated by the Clery Act and there are requirements about what information is shared in the report.
   - A question from the committee came up related to use of facial recognition software by contractors. VP Lewis shared that CU Public Safety has no facial recognition software, nor do contract security companies use facial recognition software for Columbia). There is a policy covering use of CCTV: https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/cctv-monitoring-and-recording-policy
   - Additional questions:
     - Are Public Safety officers required to identify themselves? VP Lewis responded yes and shared that officers have a shield with their name on it on their outermost garment.
     - Does Public Safety pull demographic data on students? Response: Public Safety does not have the ability to pull demographic data. If a student has concerns about this kind of data being collected, they should contact their Dean of Students and/or the Ombuds office.
     - It was noted that the Spectator reported on surveillance on campus.
   - Additional comment shared by VP Lewis: additional oversight of Public Safety is occurring through the accreditation process with CLEA and IACLEA.
3. **Review of Feedback from IPSAC Portal**
   - Themes from the feedback included:
     - Heightened safety concerns amid political tensions
     - Appreciation for Public Safety, with requests for accessible and clearer alerts

- - - Complaints received that it takes multiple clicks to get to the photos or graphics contained in their alert emails
    - NYU's similar emails contain images
  - Restrictive and inflexible visitor policies
  - Desire for justification of safety measures and reduced surveillance
  - Concerns over perceived bias and restricted discourse
  - Calls for inclusive, safe dialogue policies
4. **VP's Report**
   - Fair and Impartial Policing - Commencing December 12th and 13th, this will likely be bi-annual
     - 2-day Training-of-Trainers
     - 1.5-day Command-Community (30) max attendees
     - 1-Day Mid-Managers' (30) max attendees
       - Invites extended to IPSAC
       - Training will be for Public Safety Officers and Contract Security Personnel
     - Looking at implementing Ritz Carlton training for Public Safety personnel
       - Focusing on customer service for guests, students, staff, faculty, etc.
         a. The interaction PS has with the public, might be the public's only interaction with Columbia
       - Looking toward January for this training
     - Questions
       - What is being done to make sure this is a permanent part of Public Safety training?
         a. All new employees will get this training as part of their onboarding process
         b. There is already implicit bias training, but the "Training of Trainers" will help trainers improve their work
         c. This will allow creation of new modules using the visiting trainer's materials
5. **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**
   - Most of the students on this committee will be gone soon
     - Their successors will not remember how things used to be, with fewer guards on campus and open access for guests and the community
   - Future meetings will be held on:
     - December 13, 2024 - **this will rescheduled**
   - **Action Items**:
     - Distribute Training invite to IPSAC members, looking to get two members to join at a minimum
     - Can IPSAC create a document of current student members' information/concerns/etc. so that they carry forward to future iterations of IPSAC so these issues are not forgotten?
       - Looking to make sure incoming students are aware of changes on campus
     - Reschedule December 13, 2024 Meeting for December 9, 10, or 11