

Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee Notes

November 3, 2023

11:00am – 12:00pm

Agenda

- Welcome and aims for our time
- Vice President's Report
- Discussion: Building trust as a committee
- Next Steps and close

Welcome and Aims for our Time

- Main topic of discussion today is how to build trust as a committee
- Introduction of the new members: Qixiang Hu, Mariam Jallow, Maria Martinez and Alan Wang
- Review of conversation guidelines
- Highlight of the themes from small group discussions: Effective communication, promoting human connections, fostering ongoing collaboration and partnership, positive change, and transparency around imperfections
- Notion of trust is very important to this committee

Vice President's Report

- We've been consumed with the Israeli/Hamas conflict as a community. There have been many protests and counter-protests happening on campus.
- NYPD has helped with the Doxing truck outside of campus. Public Safety is working with FBI as well and General Counsel on this issue to figure out how to keep everyone safe.
- Gate closures and other measures that are being taken by Public Safety:
 - We encourage peaceful demonstration, while avoiding outside agitators.
 - Public Safety is basing decisions on information received and is communicating with students as quickly as possible.
- Creating a relationship of trust with the NYPD is hugely important, especially during this time.
 - Gerald would like Manhattan Borough Chief Ruel Stephenson to address this committee. Chief Stephenson represents the new mentality and personality of the NYPD. He is very sensitive and compassionate regarding what is going on (civil unrest, vigils, protests, demonstrations, etc.) and is very open to feedback.
 - NYPD "Civil Affairs Unit" – working in unison with Public Safety – very well-trained unit in dealing with demonstrations and protests.
 - Jurisdictional limitations of Public Safety necessitate calling NYPD at times. Public Safety in itself cannot enforce laws and relies on NYPD to assist.
- Introduction of Sherie Pearsall, new AVP of Administration
- Revisiting topic of scams targeting International students:
 - Public Safety spoke to the FBI about funds transferred during scam.
 - Educate students
 - Three-day window when FBI can freeze money transfers.
 - Liaison for international students.

Group Discussion – Building Trust as a Committee

- What is your **motivation** for being here?
 - Positive interaction, relationship and partnership with Public Safety
 - Supporting internal and external communities and representing many voices
 - Transparency to students
 - Attention to the language used in communications that affect tensions
 - International student voice to represent large populations (i.e., Chinese students)
 - Promoting inclusion and belonging

- What is the **role** you hope to play on this committee?
 - Improvement of communication (accuracy, accessibility, inclusivity, etc.)
 - Lending a voice
 - Representation
 - Creating safe spaces
 - Shifting the narratives around Public Safety
 - Increasing awareness of student perspectives

- Is it easy or hard for you to feel **trust** with this committee? Why?
 - Belief that committee members have good intentions
 - Important to clarify and address confusion between Public Safety and police
 - Increase representation across campuses
 - Hierarchies are a challenge (small breakout groups are helpful for students)
 - This committee began with apprehension, Public Safety felt defensive, but this has completely shifted
 - Relationship with NYPD is a contentious topic it helped to hear from leadership (i.e., Dennis Mitchell) on this topic
 - Not enough time is allotted for students to talk together during committee meetings – students want to hear more from one another
 - Committee has fostered a better understanding of Public Safety for all

- What would help you be **honest and forthcoming** in these conversations?
 - Being candid, sensitive and compassionate with one another
 - Conversation guidelines are a very helpful framework
 - Non-judgmental audience
 - Create a subgroup for students? Allocating more time for student contributions in meetings.
 - Mix up the breakout groups – more than one student in a group

- What **obstacles** exist that make it challenging for you to fully participate?
 - Need to not only have respect for elder voices, but to also recognize and value the opinion of the youth
 - Flexibility and open-mindedness to different opinions are critical
 - Common goals have helped eliminate most obstacles in this space
 - We are experiencing very difficult times on campus, with heightened anxiety – navigating tensions is a challenge

Next Steps and Close

- Next meeting on December 8th at 11:00am