

IPSAC Meeting Notes

September 20, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome and aims for our time
- VP Report
- Discussion: In her email on September 5, President Armstrong shared that: “Based upon feedback from the listening sessions conducted by the Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee, I have asked the Public Safety leadership to advance our efforts to create a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who can support our campus. These next steps will enable us to expand the capabilities of our public safety team as suggested by many members of our community. Perhaps most importantly, the sessions emphasized the critical importance of ongoing feedback and evaluation of our public safety efforts. Please continue to share your thoughts with us at the [Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee website](#).” Discuss the who, what, when, where and how around this effort.
- Next Steps and close

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Melissa Begg opened the meeting with introductions and acknowledged the new members. She highlighted the focus of the meeting, which is to strategize on implementing enhancements to Public Safety, specifically through creating a multi-disciplinary team - a Campus Support Team (CST) - to support campus safety and reduce reliance on external law enforcement like NYPD.
- New members were introduced, including several students and staff representatives. These new additions are:
 - Talia Bodner (Student, GS and JTS)
 - Tara Hanna (Associate Dean for Undergraduate Student Life, Executive Director for Residential Life, CC/SEAS)
 - Maria Martinez (Student, CC)
 - Jilliene Rodriguez (Associate Dean for Diversity and Community Engagement, SIPA)
 - Kayla Stadeker (Student, SIPA)
 - Shuangyi Xu (Student, GSAS)
 - Nour Yousry (Student, Mailman School of Public Health)
- Conversation guidelines were reiterated to foster a constructive discussion environment.

2. Community Feedback and [Website Portal Submissions](#)

- **Concerns Highlighted:**

- Discomfort with the presence of law enforcement on campus, especially affecting women and people of color.
- Hostility due to public protests, particularly near campus gates, and the need for safer campus access.
- Requests for diverse representation in campus safety committees, inclusion in decision-making, and consistency in communication regarding safety policies/updates.
- Resource allocation issues, such as insufficient staffing to manage workload effectively.

3. Vice President's Report (Gerald Lewis)

- **Welcome Back Message & Interim President Transition:** VP Lewis sent out a message to the community with resources and emphasized Interim President Armstrong's continued focus on enhancing campus safety and customer service.
- **Customer Service Enhancements:** New greeters on Broadway and Amsterdam will be recognizable by their formal attire. This initiative aims to make the campus more welcoming.
- **Required De-escalation Training:** 133 Public Safety officers completed a 4-hour conflict management & negotiation training facilitated by [Dr. Jeff Thompson](#). Trained officers will be trained to train others. A monthly condensed version via webinar was suggested for others (delegates, student leaders, and student-facing staff).

4. Full Group Discussion

- **President's Charge:** Melissa discussed President Armstrong's recent statement asking Public Safety leadership to form a multi-disciplinary support team and emphasized the importance of ongoing community feedback.
- **Key Discussion Questions:**
 - **Who** should be part of the multidisciplinary team?
 - Suggestions included student leaders, Public Safety staff, and internal experts on current issues, with a recommendation to update team membership every 2-3 years.
 - A subset group or additional personnel that could answer questions related to university policy/rules related to conduct and event approvals.
 - **What** events should the team support?
 - The team should handle both crisis and day-to-day issues affecting students' sense of belonging.
 - **When** should the team be deployed?
 - Deployment should include real-time responses to incidents while also providing ongoing support.
 - De-escalation AND engage in topics that are of concern to students (mental health?)

- **How** should communication be managed?
 - Feedback emphasized the importance of transparent and succinct communication, recognizing the different voices and experiences on campus.
- **Feedback Themes:**
 - The need for a balance between those who feel safe with security measures and those who do not.
 - Proposal for renaming this committee to encompass broader campus safety/climate/environment rather than just public safety keeping in mind larger community
 - Concerns about reactive/performance versus proactive safety measures and the need for clear, concise communication.

5. **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

- The feedback from this meeting will be shared with leadership for further discussion and implementation.
- Future meetings will be held on:
 - October 11, 2024, at 11:00 am
 - November 15, 2024, at 11:00 am
 - December 13, 2024, at 11:00 am
- **Action Items:**
 - VP Lewis will follow up on incorporating a condensed version of the de-escalation training for the committee.
 - VP Lewis will ensure Allied and contract security officers complete the de-escalation or a similar training.
 - Consideration for inviting more voices into future discussions.