

Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee

September 22, 2023

11am - 12 pm (Zoom and in-person)

Agenda:

- Welcome, Aims for our time
- Welcome new committee members
- Recap of work from last year
- VP's Report
- Discussion: students' experience of safety
- Next Steps and Close

Welcome, Aims for our time

- Review of Conversation Guidelines
- Introduction of new Committee members
- *Questions to the Committee: What do you hope to gain from this Committee/what can we do moving forward?*
 - Posting our meeting notes publicly is helpful to keep the community informed
 - Addressing concerned parents (specifically in ISSO) – Are there messages we can provide to parents?
 - Feedback/viewpoints from external groups (increase dialogue)
- Reminder: Who we are and why the committee was created
 - Group's mandate is to provide guidance to Public Safety on how to enhance their practices and further foster an inclusive and equitable campus community.
 - To meet regularly with Public Safety representatives
 - To raise issues of importance to the broader community
 - To make recommendations and share feedback/constructive criticism
 - To review proposed policy and practice changes

Recap of work from last year

In the past year we reviewed and provided feedback on: Mental Health/Wellness Checks and related protocols, Public Safety's training programs, Public Safety's efforts to engage with the community, the improvements made to the Lion App and the use of Resource Allocation Mapping.

Vice President Gerald Lewis' Report

- New members of the Public Safety team:
 - Brian McPherson – New Assistant Vice President of Operations and Investigations
 - New Assistant Vice President of Administration – starting middle of October
- Community Engagement:
 - International Students
 - Focusing on scams that target them (i.e., job opportunities, immigration related scams, etc.).
 - Thinking about how to protect these students.
 - Using awareness magnets/stickers to educate the international community.
 - Partnered with DA's office/FBI to help with fraudulent transfers of funds
 - 26th precinct partnership on a school supply give away/free haircuts in the community
 - Bicycle patrol training to broaden our reach (difficult training, 5 out of 7 officers have completed the training)
 - Welcome back message to students was sent out to increase awareness
- Resources
 - Incident mapping (heat mapping) using tracking software that indicates where incidents are taking place. Click to see what the incident was, observe patterns, etc. Allows sergeants to see where more attention is needed.
 - Deployment of resources – Public Safety's biggest strength is deterrence through visibility, patrols, lighting, etc.
 - Use of overhead lights at night
 - Routes devised based on the heat maps
 - Adding new foot patrols on campus
- Uniforms
 - Shared a new option (visibility but softer than traditional uniforms).
 - Will create some prototypes and get feedback from officers and community.
 - Hoping that new uniform will make officers more approachable to those in the community.

Committee Breakout Discussion:

Why is Public Safety important? What are students' experiences of Public Safety at Columbia?

- Marketing is important (resources available such as LionSafe app, Situational Awareness trainings, etc.)
- Ensuring international students/community are more comfortable to come to Public Safety and understanding their unique perceptions of Public Safety
- Continuing to improve and educate everyone in the community (broader community and CU community). Being more inclusive of diverse backgrounds.
- Public Safety should be approachable

- Fostering a sense of belonging on all of our campuses
- Gerald's leadership/perspective are valuable. We've taken big steps since the committee started – bringing important issues to the forefront
- Creating a space for feedback and problem-solving – implementing recommendations when possible
- Physical safety vs. perception of safety – thinking about how perception can impact students and tackling the disconnect between students and Public Safety
- Making connections across campus, outside of crisis situations and hearing different voices from around the university
- Mitigating negative feelings toward Public Safety during orientation/soon after arrival on campus
- Public Safety should make more connections with students, not only to talk about resources and aim to break down barriers using human interactions
- The working group and Committee were built from a negative occurrence, but it has become a more positive space over the years for sharing ideas, etc. Perspectives of Public Safety have improved after engagement with this Committee.

Main themes from the discussion –

- effective communication
- human connection
- ongoing collaboration/partnership
- positive change
- transparency around imperfections/intentional about fixing issues

Upcoming Fall Meetings

- October 20 at 11am
- December 8 at 11am