

UPSOC Attending:

Rebecca Lawrence
Jill Townley
Randy Mishler
Vicki Reitenauer
Avneet Sidhu
Michael Alexander
Michael Smith
Miles Weatheroy
Don Mueller
Constantin Sever

UPSOC Absent:

Jessica Navlet
Teresa Niedermeyer

UPSOC Staff:

Joshewa Fulton

Guests:

Chief Willie Halliburton - CPSO
Cindy Starke - General Counsel

University Public Safety Oversight Committee (UPSOC) – January 19, 2023

3:00pm-5:00pm

Convened: 3:00 pm (via Zoom)

Topic: Review of meeting notes

Discussion: December meeting notes were approved as written.

Topic: Discussion with Cindy Starke regarding the role of UPSOC

Discussion: Initial implementation of committee was not effective. Originally overseen by the VP of Finance and Administration. Provides recommendations for campus public safety. The Jason Washington incident brought about change, a stronger more effective oversight committee.

In crafting the charter of UPSOC, several oversight models were considered:

- Review
- Investigatory (police misconduct, disciplinary - sanctions, policy changes)
- Auditor
- Hybrid of Review and Auditor

Q. In regards to the conceptualization about UPSOC training with a focus on oversight, what training is suggested?

- A. Need campus oriented training in addition to typical oversight body training, and funding to purchase/facilitate finding. Chief Halliburton suggested citizen academies for UPSOC members. A national organization to support civilian oversight.

Q. What is the biggest barrier to be more effective?

- A. Lack of resources/funding. Officers are overworked and underfunded.

Q. How can CPSO, UPSOC, and the University evaluate practices and improvements?

- A. External investigator review and improvement recommendations. Shift priorities.

Final Thoughts - UPSOC is community focused and brings in all members of the university and is a valuable asset.

Topic: Chief Updates

Personnel -

- Dispatch Supervisor position has been filled
- Postings will go up for police officers, public safety officers and dispatch.
- Two police officers have graduated from the academy in the last two months.
- Currently have 7 public safety ambassadors, the most since inception.
- Sworn officers schedule is M-Friday, 6:00am-10:00pm
 - Moving to weekend schedules but no overnights.
 - Not always able to respond to calls and PPB is understaffed.

Other Updates

- CPSO sent out the safety report last month. The next report will be for September 2021-2022.
- CPSO is dealing with more crimes with slow to no support from PPB.
- Incidents
 - Officer Weatheroy reported on an incident at the University Place Hotel. Responded to a welfare check of someone sleeping in a vehicle. Individual was holding a backpack and started to open it, Officer Weatheroy took possession of the backpack and the suspect fled. The contents of the backpack included a Glock 17 with extended magazine, vehicle had multiple warrants and Fentanyl was found in the car and hotel. No deadly force was used.
 - There was another recent report of fighting and guns on campus overnight.
 - Discussion: The culture is changing and we need to do the right thing at the right time. There should be an improvement with campus communication on these incidents. Must acknowledge that information might scare the community, the tone and sensitivity on how information is shared is important. There is an activity log in the lobby of CPSO and will be placed on the website for the public.
- CPSO Annual Report
 - Updated racial descriptors, specific to AAPI.

Topic: Final Comments

- University of Denver Dir. of Campus Safety and Exec. Director, Enterprise Risk Management will be on campus and will attend the February UPSOC meeting.
- Suggestions for next year planning.

- Revisit charter
- Have a Student Ambassador from CPSO attend an UPSOC meeting.
- Connect with Illuminate Education regarding workshops
- Clery Act - Refresher/online training
- SAGE report - awaiting reply to attend an UPSOC meeting.