

UPSOC Attending:

Rebecca Lawrence

Jill Townley

Michael J. Smith

Vicki Reintenaus

Don Mueller

Randy Mishler

Miles Weatheroy

Michael Alexander

Constantin Severe

Dana Walton-Macaulay

UPSOC Absent:

Jessica Navlet

UPSOC Staff:

Teresa Niedermeyer

Guests:

Chief Willie Halliburton - CPSO

University Public Safety Oversight Committee (UPSOC) – March 16, 2023

3:00pm-5:00pm

Convened: 3:00 pm (via Zoom)**Topic:** Review of meeting notes**Discussion:** February meeting notes were approved as written.**Topic:** Sage Review

Discussion: Murph and Kay from the QRC joined the meeting to discuss parts of the SAGE (Sexuality and Gender Equity Commission) review that are specific to UPSOC. The survey focused on Campus Rec, SHAC, and Campus Public Safety. Data is from the Fall of 2019. Went over the questions and results of the survey regarding campus security. Shared nationally what is happening with legislation against LGBTQ communities that can affect a reaction of how a student may feel towards CPSO.

Recommendations:

- Increase accountability and commit to transparency.
- Redirect CPSO resources to support policing alternatives.
- CPSO continues to implement its new policy disarming its officers.
- Development of trust and dialogue.

Questions and Comments:

Q. How many students responded?

A. 1,000

Q. What is the percentage?

A. It was about 19-20% response.

Added comment: The data is sobering. Many of the respondents came into PSU with life experiences. Moving forward will be interesting to see if there is a difference in how they view campus and the world.

Q. Are there any plans to do another safe survey?

A. Would like to, it was a volunteer effort and took a long time to parse out the data.

Q. When CPSO stopped by QRC for a visit and it had a negative impact on some people at the center, what would be a better way to connect?

A. If there is a time CPSO would like to stop by, Murph can let students know in

advance. By asking in advance, acknowledges that CPSO realizes people may have a reaction that might not be positive.

Q. For people who need to have some kind of campus escort, for those who identify as queer?

A. Could ask students what would increase your likelihood of using this service.

Topic: Response to Professor M.

Discussion: Letter was drafted in response to Professor M's visit at February meeting. Committee reviewed the letter, Becca and Randy will finalize and send it out.

Topic: Chief Halliburton Update

Discussion: Staffing Update

- 8 Police Officers
- 5 Dispatchers
- 6 Safety Ambassadors
- 8 Student Ambassadors
 - Hoping to add 4-5 more next year.
- Made a decision to expand cover. Starting April 2nd there will be 24hr coverage.
 - Police officers - 12 hr shift for police officers
 - Public Safety Officers - 10 hour shifts
 - M-F 6pm-6:00am

Discussion: Operational Decisions Update

- Current policy took a long time to write and when it was written PPB was fully staffed and CPSO could count on them for support. They are now very lean, and relying on them as a resource has become very challenging.
- There has been a large increase in weapons on campus in a way they have not seen in the past. They cannot rely on PPB to provide support and have received calls from PPB to help them out.
- They are not abandoning unarmed patrol, however, until they have a better handle on what is going on on campus, better support from PPB and more officers CPSO will be having more armed patrols.
- The main goal is to keep campus and officers safe.

Questions and Comments:

Q. Are we arming campus police or safety officers?

A. Only campus police officers. Public Safety Office patrols will increase during the day and will provide presence for other types of calls.

Q. What else are doing to the arming? Are we pushing for more funding for CPSO?

A. Funding and budgeting - Chief will be asking for more knowing that money is tight across campus. Active shooter training is currently on the website and have sent two officers to provide training to departments. Simulator in the basement for training is utilized. Chief Halliburton will be having a "Coffee with the Chief" every Monday at Smith Center and will communicate with the community what is being done and why.

Q. With PPB availability becoming less and less a factor are they supportive at all?

A. Majority of the time they cannot help. Recently a student had a crisis and called PPB who could not assist. Campus officer was able to assist the student

and de-escalate the situation.

Q. Have you involved the incoming President in this discussion?

A. Yes, the incoming President has been informed. CPSO is also working with UCOMM for the announcement to the community.

Q. Have you had a discussion with President Percy, as someone who has been important in navigating us through the last few years, is he supportive?

A. Yes he is. Chief Halliburton and the President had a discussion and the Chief shared what has been happening on campus, a very hard decision for the Chief and President Percy.

Q. How quickly are you going to make the change?

A. Last week, after the most recent incident.

Final Thoughts/Comments:

- Comment that CPSO has demonstrated that they can respond without reaching for a weapon as the first response. With the type of the activities happening on campus, comments were voiced that there is a concern and retention and recruitment could be a challenge.
- This decision will be divisive for many. It is important to communicate the process, they are not going backward and trying to create a path forward and new officers will be part of the new culture that has been built over the last few years.
- Committee will formulate a response to the policing changes and send to President Percy, Chief Halliburton, Kevin Reynolds and Kevin Neely.