

UPSOC Attending:

Michael Alexander
 Becca Lawrence
 Randy Mishler
 Don Mueller
 Vicki Reitenauer
 Michael Smith
 Constant Severe
 Avenett Sidhu
 Jill Townley
 Dana Walton Macaulay
 Miles Weatheroy

UPSOC Absent:

Chris Carey
 Jessica Navlet

UPSOC Staff:

Teresa Niedermeyer

Guests:

Chief Willie Halliburton - CPSO
Andrea Garrity - Director of
 Student Success
Cori Watkins - Data & Research
 Analyst - Office of Student
 Success

University Public Safety Oversight Committee (UPSOC) – November 17, 2022

3:00pm-5:00pm

Convened: 3:00 pm (via Zoom)

Topic: Review of meeting notes

Discussion: October meeting notes were approved as written.

Topic: Chief Halliburton Update

Discussion: The Chief updated UPSOC members on personnel, MOU, KMC, budget
Personnel -

- 2 officers are still at the academy but expect them to be back in December

MOU IGA –

- CPSO has received notice for a refresher of the policy.

KMC Burglaries

- A grand jury has been set.

Budget

- CPSO budget will not be impacted by the overall university budget discussion.

Q. The cultural resources centers in Smith were asking about coverage during the quieter winter months, what is CPSO coverage during this time?

A. CPSO will have the same number of people on staff and will be able to do hourly walkthroughs in KMC and Smith. At this time we are not contracting with an outside security company.

Q. What about during winter break?

A. Most of the CPSO staff will be on duty and are expecting a decrease in call volume so they expect to do more walkthroughs.
 Randy Mishler added that staff will be in Smith during the break and they will do walkthrough 1x a day.

Other updates from Becca:

- Becca let UPSOC know that they had received a policy update from the Chief and will send it out to the committee for a discussion at the December meeting.
- Sage Affinity Group - They did a survey in 2019 and have the results about impressions of CPSO and campus safety as it relates to LGBTQ community, specifically students. They would like to come to a future meeting to discuss findings and discussion.

Topic: RCSC Update

Discussion: Vicki Reitenauer gave her monthly update from the Reimagine Campus Safety

Committee.

- Not a lot to report this month but will be meeting 1:1 with the three people from UPSOC who would like to be on the sub-committee.
- A number of RCSC recommendations have already moved forward, look at what has already started so as not to reproduce items.

Q. Does RCSC have a budget?

A. RCSC does not have a budget, but there are items that will require a budget.

Discussion: The group discussed the presidential search and if there are filters around the scope of work that take into account the charge of both RCSC and UPSOC, would like this to be part of the conversation with potential candidates.

Topic: Student Survey Experience presented by Andrea Garrity and Cori Watkins. The focus will be around the safety results as UPSOC continues their charge to provide oversight, counsel, and advice to campus safety leadership.

- The most recent survey is the first time they have specifically asked about safety as it was a recurring theme for students. There is a temperature check after the survey goes out in terms of how it's going, representation. Have worked with the multicultural centers to promote participation.
- 5 themes of the survey: Affordability, Emotional/Mental Health, Course Availability, Commuting, and Safety.
 - Housing and Food insecurity went up and have so over the last two years.
 - Emotional/Mental health questions have been added in the last 2 years and 87% surveyed experience challenges, an increase of 3% over the last year.
 - Nearly a quarter of students have experienced trauma - 3% increase over the last year.

Safety Question in Survey

- Survey gave a list of times, morning, midday, afternoon, evenings, night and asked how safe they felt during those times.
 - 57% felt safe on campus in the evenings, 80% of respondents report feeling unsafe on campus at night (10pm-7:00am)
- Open ended question asked: Is there anything we should know about campus safety?
 - A major theme is the MAX stations, a lot of students feel unsafe.
 - Transit - After dark students would like to have an escort for transit whether to public transportation stop or car, students feel unsafe in garages.
 - Communication - If there is an incident on campus students feel like there is limited communication, no follow up which leads to a very unsafe feeling.

Q. Will there be an opportunity to ask this of graduate students in the future?

A. Currently the survey is only going out to undergraduate students, need to connect with the grad school.

Q. In prior surveys did it include any safety questions?

A. No, but safety is an issue that comes up in the surveys so it was added this year.

Q. Is there an identifiable trend to feeling less safe after the pandemic?

A. Because we have not asked about safety in the past it is hard to analyze, but people feel less safe on campus. There were many comments about a particular corner on campus that made them feel unsafe. They are mostly describing getting out of class at night and

having to wait for transit.

Q. Is there any sense that there are some specific recommendations/areas relating to safety that UPSOC should be looking at and bringing them forward?

A. Andrea and Cori presented to the executive council, with 2 recommendations - a buddy system for transit, and lighting in key areas, and had advocated for this prior to the pandemic. The students seem to like having the buildings locked with pass access, it gives them a more secure sense on campus.

Many of the issues that were at the top in the spring have calmed a little possibly due to more people being on campus.

Q. Do you see a correlation between safety and persistence with students? Is it a problem that we could connect those two?

A. A question that is asked is if they plan on returning to the next term, safety did not play a huge part in their answers. Students living on campus feel safer. A big influence on persistence is modality, more students choosing to take classes in person.

Q. Have you presented to other groups and what was that feedback?

A. Have not presented to students, we have presented to smaller groups. During those times mental health and food insecurity were a little more top of mind.

Q. Has any of this been done for statistics around crime around campus, time of day?

A. Don't know if that is being done, but would partner with CPSO to get that done.

Q. Mentioned had not done safety questions previously because other safety surveys were done. Who was doing those?

A. RCSC and GDI have had survey's. There is a transportation survey that has some safety pieces in that survey.

Takeaways from the committee -

- Transit - the tone of commuting downtown has changed and how safety concerns have increased. Perhaps collaborating with Tri-met.
- Enrollment management - What are the safety consequences for enrollment?
- Buddy/escort system - PSU used to have that, there was a number you could call and have someone from public safety.
- One of the recommendations previously would be to have student ambassadors, do we still have the ambassadors?
 - A. Officer Weatheroy answered this question - There are 5 ambassadors employed by CPSO. Buddy system could work but if there is a safety issue it's better to have an officer.
- Communication - Do we have a safety sub-committee that has regular communication? There are lots of comments on lack of communication, how it is presented and when in relation to an incident. Students hear about services provided but feel there is no follow up. Need to emphasize proactive communication, where we can direct people before something happens.
- Officer Weatheroy - with timely warnings in the past, there is concern from the community regarding the language used or not used. It would be beneficial to have a committee for what that process looks like.

Final thoughts: At the next meeting Becca would like the committee to process some recommendations that we have for CPSO, Executive Council, if we start to bring those together by the end of the next meeting.