

University Public Safety Oversight Committee (UPSOC) monthly meeting

AGENDA

Jun 13, 2024 , 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Richard & Maurine Neuberger Center (RMNC) Gold Room (541) / Zoom

Call to order

- Meeting began at 3:05 PM

Approve minutes of May 16 meeting

- Notes will be revised to reflect Sarah Williams' full name
- Sarah motioned to approve; Michael Smith seconded

Notes from co-chair

- Congratulations were given to Deborah for receipt of a philanthropic award
- UPSOC Cochairs Don and Randy shared updates from their meeting with President Cudd on May 22
 - President Cudd will be presented with a year-end report
 - Cochairs discussed recruitment and student stipends
 - Recruitment
 - Cochairs made the decision to hold off on a general announcement of recruitment. President Cudd asked for more information from Cochairs about who they may wish to reach out to serve on the committee.
 - Additional students may be onboarded after September if needed
 - Concern was expressed from an UPSOC member that targeted recruitment may neglect those who are not aware of the committee and there should be transparency if changes are made to the recruitment time frame.
 - A question was raised whether the application process could be opened if the final decision for who is chosen changes.
 - Cochairs indicated they would include these concerns in their year-end report to the President.
 - Ensuing discussion covered how the President's Office historically opened the application process, UPSOC interviewed members and made recommendations for the President to then approve.
 - Student stipends
 - Staff are working on clarifying this for past amounts due.
 - UPSOC discussed the need to change Charter language to specify details for stipends for service moving forward.
- Hiring Committee

- Randy will reach out to UPSOC members over the summer

Dr. Khan - campus safety survey

- The campus public safety survey has been completed and garnered 1,155 responses, which will be analysed over summer 2024.
- The intention is to repeat this process spring 2025 to track changes and trends over time.

Old Business

- UPSOC discussed its past meeting with President Cudd and Chief of Staff Martin concerning protest activity at the Millar Library
 - A recommendation was made that before engaging with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), consideration should be given and attempts made to contract mediators. PSU has a conflict resolution program and expertise. Concern was raised that PSU Administration went straight to PPB instead of considering opportunities for deeper mediation and negotiation.
 - Another member raised the concern about mediation when there is trespass activity.
 - A question arose whether PSU could have done something more before the City removed people from the park blocks.
 - Another comment was made that communication across the board during the entire week was found lacking, not just from the President's Office but everyone involved in what was happening.
 - An UPSOC member suggested that the committee could propose alternative protocol options moving forward with understanding that UPSOC may provide input on policies and procedures in hindsight and generally.
 - Another member commented their understanding that students were the first to depart the library and made up a small percentage of those arrested.
 - Another member expressed the need to distinguish students who have a right to protest on campus from those in the broader Portland public when considering where UPSOC can step in and say PPB needs to be involved. The sense was PSU students are our students and therefore require a different set of actions needing to be taken. Concern was raised that oftentimes students are conflated with the broader community; while motives are similar the populations are not the same.
 - Another concern was for students who may be in buildings to use resources rather than protest and the need to protect students' ability to access resources.
 - Another member disagreed that students and community ought to be treated in different ways and expressed the viewpoint that the PSU campus is

intrinsically connected to and part of the public, and it's important to not draw lines between them.

- Another comment was given that the library is open to the public and inquiring whether access needs to be suspended to the public in the forthcoming fall 2024. Concern was raised that Portland is often the epicenter for conflict and there was interest in making sure PSU buildings were not open to potential conflicts.
- A suggestion was made to connect with SAGE, the Commission on Sexual and Gender Equity, as a conversation partner in continued conversations about student safety.
- A comment was made that even given facts, there may be multiple perspectives; and UPSOC needs to be able to offer perspectives that allow many sides to be part of the response shared with Administration.
 - Worry was expressed by another member about the impact of sharing this with the Administration, while another said there is value in suggesting general alternatives to the President.
 - A suggestion was made to focus on what other things should have been considered instead of continuing discussion of past library events, including possibly involving someone from the incident management team, Project Respond, and considering what other institutions UPSOC could look to for best practices.
 - A suggestion was made to reach out to other committee chairs and hold a joint session in the future.
 - Another suggestion was for UPSOC to come up with a list of similar schools it could engage with, other institutions encircled by bustling cities with different views.
- Concern was raised about UPSOC communication with the President and when co-chairs would next meet with the President
- Sarah made a motion for UPSOC to begin establishing a framework for recommendations to the Administration and to revisit this conversation in September; Deb seconded; and UPSOC unanimously approved.

Kevin Modica, Acting Chief - Campus Public Safety Office (CPSO)

- Kevin introduced himself
- He indicated that with City and federal agency partners, they were able identify individuals who drove social media activity, including threats and suggestions to show up to certain campus spaces to protest President Cudd and other university decisions.
- CPSO is undergoing challenges with staffing as officers move onto work for larger agencies and others remain tired with lots of overtime and extra time associated with effort to increase protection and awareness on campus.

- CPSO is preparing for Commencement and looking forward to safe, celebratory events showcasing the university's successful graduates.
- Kevin agreed to pass along UPSOC members' well wishes to Chief Halliburton
- Kevin also indicated that the Office of General Counsel (OGC) was engaging in work related to student involvement in library protest activity, the District Attorney's office would handle those arrested and charged.
 - He said he had not seen any complaints to CPSO about use of force from events but was aware PPB received several complaints.
- He was asked about the process for filing a complaint and referenced CPSO's Citizen Complaint Form

New business

- Charter discussion
 - UPSOC cochair suggested considering changing UPSOC's Charter to accurately reflect that UPSOC would provide input not on each and every incident but rather policies for building access, generally.
 - Suggestion was also made to change charter language from specific to policies being reviewed.
- Meeseon will send out the series of meetings for the next academic year.
- Cochairs thanked UPSOC participation over past year.
- Randy motioned to adjourn, Sarah seconded.

Present:

Wendy Weir
Sarah Williams
Albert Roberson
Deborah Arthur
Kimberly Kahn
Michael Alexander
Michael Smith
Randy Mishler
Nic Francisco-Kaho'onei