Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) – Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2020
12:30-1:30pm
Held via zoom

Attendees:

Members: Byrne (faculty), Chukuwukere (student), Davis-Frost (institutional), Haenlin-Mott (institutional), Hodges (student), Mackowski, (faculty), Margulies (faculty), Ononye (institutional), Rogers (student)

Chair: DeStefano
Staff: Burgess, Honan, Matta, Radloff

START: 12:32pm

I. Introductions:

PSAC Chair, Joanne DeStefano, welcomed the final two committee members to their first PSAC meeting and the second meeting of the academic year. The new members, both students, Anuli Ononye and Liz Davis-Frost were appointed as institutional appointments. Sam Radloff provided an update on the collaborative tool the committee will use moving forward.

II. Approval of Minutes

Members of the committee unanimously voted to approve minutes from the October 23, 2020 meeting.

III. Background Data on CUPD

Chief of Police, David Honan, provided an in-depth review of the university police department. Chief Honan explained that the department is guided by their mission of service with the firm belief that if there is no peace and no feeling of safety between the university and its constituents then there is no room for learning. CUPD is committed to anti-biased and anti-racist policing and ensures that they meet community expectations through its people, policy, and professionalism. Chief Honan thoroughly explained these expectations.

A primary focus of the police department is to ensure that all of its hires are properly trained. Trainings focus on cultural competence, law enforcement operations, procedural justice, de-escalation skills, University specific trainings, and community engagement. The extensive recruitment and hiring process includes several tests such
as physical, observation and writing, and psychological, many levels of interviews, and in-depth background checks. Chief Honan gave an overview of the NYS curriculum and requirements of its law enforcement academies and provided CUPD’s field training and evaluation programs.

Several questions were asked about police officer trainings, their understanding of the law and proper protocols when handling escalating issues within the university. Chief Honan stated that the department is dedicated to connecting with our community and recognizing the department’s obligation of securing public trust and respect. Such trust is gained through transparency and accountability that he expects from the department. CUPD provides to the public its internal affairs summary and annual security reports. They offer ride alongs and department tours to those interested in learning more about its daily operations, conducts regular reviews of its field officers, and body cameras are used on every call for service. Additionally, they have added less-lethal use of force options for officers. Officers are constantly offered training courses and incentives to maintain both physical and mental wellness.

Committee members have asked Chief Honan to provide a breakdown of its new hire training curriculum and a copy of its officer and telecommunications officer training manuals.

Chief Honan will continue with his presentation at the next PSAC meeting on November 24, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM
Notes by: Samantha Radloff