Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) – Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2021
12:00-1:30pm
Held via zoom

Attendees:

Members: Byrne (faculty), Chukwukere (student), Davis-Frost (institutional), Haenlin-Mott (institutional), Hodges (student), Krishnan (student), Lewis (faculty), Margulies (faculty),

Guest: Boscia, Hecht

Chair: DeStefano
Staff: Burgess Honan, Matta, Radloff

START: 12:00pm

I. Introductions and Updates:

Chair DeStefano provided brief updates on the timeline of meetings stating that all meetings are 90 minutes now. Starting in April, the committee will move to weekly meetings to accomplish its recommendations to the President by the target date. The final survey report will be available to the group by the end of next week. Chair DeStefano also discussed the progress of the focus groups by third party contractor, Southpaw and how to find a way to include anyone who expressed interest in further participation. DeStefano also informed the committee that she is meeting with the police this week to update them on PSAC and give them a chance to provide input.

Committee member Davis-Frost briefly described a campus forum that she would like to conduct in partnership with Vice Provost August which would include Cornell police participation.

Ted Boscia and Jason Hecht returned as guests to continue conversations on the survey findings.

II. Continue Review of Survey Results

Senior Research and Planning Associate, Jason Hecht, joined the committee once more to continue his preliminary analysis of the survey results. Mr. Hecht focused his presentation on the qualitative results stating that the open-ended questions received over 8,400 narrative responses. All responses were read by Mr. Hecht and his team. Examples of narrative responses provided to the group focused on tough points and highlighted the dissatisfaction from mainly BIPOC students with CUPD. By
highlighting these, the committee questioned whether the students who answered these questions were more inclined to respond because it gave them a platform to speak out on issues important to them. One thing the committee noted is that there were questions in the survey that provided confusion and could be misleading, although not intentional. Simply looking at the data and comparing numbers does not provide the full picture. Overall sentiment of the survey shows that there is a lack of transparency of what CUPD does.

The committee provided their thoughts on what should be included in the final report in order to make clear recommendations to the President. Mr. Hecht set up all narrative responses on Tableau and provided the committee with access to these responses so they can see what these responses look like. This should help in making sure that the full picture is taken into consideration and under-represented groups have a strong voice in the final recommendations.

III. Conclusion/Next Steps

The next meeting will be held on April 2. At this meeting, the committee will review the initial recommendations document and first look at the areas where there are conflicting recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM
Notes by: Samantha Radloff