

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) – Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2023

12:30-1:30pm

Held via Zoom and 316 Day Boardroom

Members: Caplan (institutional), Davis-Frost (institutional), DeLorenzo (student), Juan (student), Ladley (institutional), Loebach (student), Ovadia (student),

Absent: Byrne (faculty), Pender (faculty)

Guests: Kenney

Co-Chairs: DeStefano, Lombardi

Staff: Bellamy, Conrad, Hodges, Honan, Matta, Radloff

START: 12:30pm

I. General Updates & Introductions

PSAC Co-Chair, Joanne DeStefano welcomed committee members to today's meeting. Co-Chair DeStefano provided a brief summary of that morning's biannual Cornell University Financial Forum (CUFF) and highlighted AVP Dave Honan's presentation on the introduction of the Division of Public Safety. Co-Chair, Ryan Lombardi welcomed and introduced Greta Kenney, Senior Associate Dean of Students for Student Support & Advocacy Services. She is here today to provide an overview of the student support and advocacy services, including the new CARE Team.

II. CARE (Coordinate, Assessment, Response & Educate) Team

Greta Kenney joined the committee to discuss and provide context to the recent changes to the revised student support and advocacy services. The program went through an extensive review in the fall. During review, it was found that students in crisis do not see themselves in crisis as described by the previous model. As a result, the program changed its name to make it more accessible for students. This nomenclature proposed a delineation between business hour response/responsibility and after-hours.

Some of the other changes include the introduction of Dean of the Day in which one of the deans will always be available for walk-ins or take calls during business hours and the creation of the CARE (Coordinate, Assess, Respond, and Educate) Team.

The CARE Team is made up of several core and supplemental members, all of whom are from departments on campus that help navigate student services. The team's goal is to facilitate a safe and supportive environment as well as provide support and resources to community members concerned for a student. This team has a daily triage meeting used to assess, evaluate, and create care plans for students in need of support and advocacy services.

Kenney reviewed and provided an overview of the team's risk rubric. She also provided data from academic year 2021-2022 which showed over 1000 referrals to student services dealing with mental health issues, suicidal ideations or attempts, severe disordered eating, dating violence, etc. Kenney then touched on the student of concern referral form, available online, which they review on a daily basis using their risk rubric.

Kenney's goal with the new program is to be more public and visible with resources available to students. Her team is continuously thinking of creative ways to have student engagement. While she states that this is always a work in progress, their goal is to destigmatize some of the struggles students are facing and let them know that help is available.

III. Update on CRT Search

Peggy Matta provided a brief update on the ongoing CRT search which included progress of the interviews for candidates. There are two qualified candidates being interviewed this week for the Director position. Immediately following the director hiring, the rest of the interviews will take place.

IV. Next Steps in Unarmed Staff Planning

AVP Honan shared his progress on creating the new unarmed staff program. He has been working on the base position description and possible nomenclature for this new group along with developing the supervisor description and functionality. AVP Honan stated that there are several challenges to creating this new department including lack of infrastructure, union policies, and public presentation.

Members of the committee provided feedback on these challenges and look forward to its continued progress.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM
Notes by: Samantha M Radloff