

UPSOC Attending:

Michael Alexander
Thomas Lockett
Julie Caron – Co-Chair
Michael Walsh – Co-Chair
Zachary Mettler
Constantin Severe
Jill Townley
Christopher Carey
Dana Walton-Macaulay
Amy Ruff
Michael J. Smith
Don Mueller

UPSOC Absent:

Eduardo Chavez - Solis
Jay Auslander

UPSOC Staff:

Teresa Niedermeyer
Mark Wubbold

Guests:

Chief Halliburton - CPSO
Lindsay Romasanta - GDI
Robert Franklin - NASCC

University Public Safety Oversight Committee (UPSOC) – December 16, 2021

Convened: 3:02 pm (via Zoom)

Topic: Review of meeting notes

Discussion: Meeting notes were approved as written.

Action: Post meeting notes to website

Topic: UPSOC Membership

Discussion: UPSOC’s charter calls for between 13 and 19 members, with representation from faculty, students, and staff. Current membership is 14 with two open staff positions and one open student position. The student position will be filled by current ASPSU president Nya Mbock and UPSOC members voted to run a recruiting cycle during winter term for the two staff positions.

Action: Staff to provide the Co-Chairs with previous recruiting materials. Additional UPSOC members to work with the Co-Chairs to run recruitment winter term.

Topic: Chief’s Report

Discussion: Chief Halliburton shared updates on hiring and training.

Hiring: Since July, 25 officer candidates and 30 public safety candidates have applied for positions. The high number of candidates, and their diversity is testament to CPSO’s

efforts and the interest of public safety professionals in working at PSU. With the hire of one police officer, one latina public safety officer and one dispatcher, CPSO is nearly fully staffed and now reflects the demographics of our campus. In January, the Chief hopes to hire an additional 3-4 police officers. This could enable PSU to return to 24/7 CPSO police coverage with officers patrolling unarmed.

Training: CPSO's MYLO training simulator will be installed soon. Chief Halliburton invited UPSOC members to train on MYLO and help CPSO develop campus specific training simulations. In particular, we would like UPSOC's Training Subcommittee to experience the MYLO simulator. For now, Ride-Alongs have been postponed. There is a possibility of developing a virtual ride-along, if a videographer can be found to do so.

Topic: Special presentation by Robert Franklin - NASCC and Lindsay Romasanta - GDI on safety and security concerns at the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC).

Background: The NASCC is a PSU auxiliary and must earn some of its operating revenue through space rentals. Many of these rentals are with the general public and bring families and children on campus for events. Additionally, many Indigenous Studies courses held there take place at night. Both conditions require the facility to be both safe and secure – day and night. Since the beginning of the pandemic, maintaining the necessary levels of safety and security has been challenged by the establishment of houseless campsites on Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) land that abuts the NASCC.

One of the confounding factors of this situation is that it is not clear who is responsible for occurrences on the land being camped on. There is an unsigned document that shows ODOT has transferred the property in question into the care of the NASCC. However, because the document is unsigned, it is unclear who controls the property and thus has responsibility for policing it.

For a time, the campsites on this property and in the vicinity were not large. With the pandemic, the routine clearing of the campsites has ceased and they have become a safety and security issue for the NASCC. Having a sustained presence on the property has created ancillary safety and security issues around hygiene, excessive garbage, visibility and access.

Hygiene: Without dedicated 24/7 accessible toilets, campers have resorted to relieving themselves near and within the borders of the NASCC.

Garbage: Campers are using NASCC garbage cans to dispose of ordinary and dangerous garbage, including used syringes and sanitary products. PSU's student workers trained to do so are having to pick up these items to keep the area clean.

Visibility: There are a number of visibility issues that are adding to the difficulties the NASCC is having with safety and security. Campus signage ends across the street from the NASCC, confusing patrons as to whether the NASCC is a PSU facility. Additionally, security camera coverage is inadequate, making it difficult to determine what is

happening on the NASCC's grounds in some areas. These "dark corners" have become places some campers do their personal business. Also, the cameras the NASCC does have are not integrated into the CPSO security grid and do not help with surveillance and identification.

Access: There is a security gate adjacent to the campsite, but it is not secure and campers hop it on a regular basis. Also, the doors into the facility can be propped open allowing unobserved public access into the facility.

Under the leadership of Director Robert Franklin and with the help of Michael McNerney, CPSO's Physical Security Manager, the NASCC has developed a plan to significantly improve the safety and security of the facility and its grounds. UPSOC members discussed this plan and wholeheartedly supported it.

Action: UPSOC to write a memo to the President expressing their support for the NASCC security plan and asking for his support to implement it.

Topic: Christy Culp's Clery presentation has been moved to the January meeting.

Action: Culp's presentation to be first on the January agenda.

Topic: Chief Halliburton on Timely Warnings

Discussion: A Timely Warning was issued asking the campus community to be on the lookout for a robbery suspect. The description used to identify the suspect was vague and could have described many young Black men on campus. CPSO and GDI received several emails and Bias Review Team reports expressing concern about the vagueness of the warning and the damage it could cause. Chief Halliburton expressed his concern over the incident and explained that Timely Warnings are required for certain types of campus incidents and must be initiated, even when a comprehensive and accurate description of the suspect is not available. That the description was inadequate, points to a need for better training when working with witnesses in order to obtain a clear description of a suspect.

Campus Timely Warnings are infrequent; the last one was two years ago so CPSO has limited experience issuing them. UPSOC members had the following questions about Timely Warnings:

Q. Timely Warnings are common to other universities. Are there best practices for how to issue these warnings and for a minimal suspect description before a warning is issued.

A. Timely Warning criteria are set in the Clery Act. CPSO follows Clery when it issues a warning.

Q. If you don't have a complete and accurate description of the suspect, do you still have to issue a timely warning?

A. Yes, if it meets the Clery criteria a Timely Warning must be issued regardless of the completeness of information available.

CPSO plans to develop a Timely Warning policy and provide officers with additional witness interview training so they are able to gather accurate information upon which these warnings must be based. CPSO is committed to issuing complete and accurate Timely Warnings that do not profile suspects.

Topic: De-escalation Training

Discussion: Chris Carey has agreed to do this training for UPSOC. It is not clear when the training should be given. UPSOC will need to coordinate with CPSO before Dr. Carey does the training.

Action: Co-Chairs and Carey will talk to the Chief about this.

Topic: Training Subcommittee

Discussion: This group wishes to meet with the Chief and Training Lieutenant. UPSOC is looking for recommendations from the committee to reestablish campus-based trainings and determine how often they should occur. UPSOC would like these recommendations to happen before March, to coincide with when CPSO is more fully staffed. In particular, they would like to see new officers receive this training.

Action: Staff to help the training subcommittee schedule time with the CPSO Chief and training Lieutenant to discuss campus-based trainings. The meeting with the training Lieutenant is to include a listing of the current trainings.

Topic: Reimagining Campus Safety Committee (RCSC) Update

Discussion: The RCSC has reached consensus on their recommendations and are now writing their report for the President. UPSOC has not seen the final recommendations of the RCSC. Once the recommendations pertaining to UPSOC have been drafted, UPSOC members will have an opportunity to respond to them before they are finalized.

Adjourned: 5:05 p.m.