

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

APRIL 14, 2021

9:30 AM via ZOOM

Dr. McKee welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their work over the course of the past year. He indicated that some committee members will leave and new members will join in the new academic year.

Dr. Moll asked for any new members or guests to introduce themselves. Nick Messenger explained that he has attended in the past to fill in for Stephen Post in representing the Council of Graduate Students (CGS). He said he is now the President of CGS and will continue to represent CGS on PSAC in the upcoming academic year. Moetiz (Moe) Samad, Associate Director for Inclusive Excellence in Residence Life, explained that he will assist Qiana Smith in representing Residence Life on the committee. Also joining the meeting was Lt. Bruce Allen of OSUPD, filling in for Lt. Joanna Shaul to answer any questions about diversity training initiatives for police officers.

The first agenda topic was PSAC membership. Dr. Moll indicated that student members will likely change from one academic year to another, and that the presidents of the participating student groups typically assist in selecting representatives for PSAC. Dr. Moll has reached out to each student group currently represented to remind them to select new reps for the upcoming academic year, or to notify her and Dr. McKee if the same students are willing and able to serve as a PSAC member again for another academic year. The student groups currently represented are Undergraduate Student Government, Council of Graduate Students, Inter-Professional Council, Muslim Student Association, Asian American Association, and Residence Hall Advisory Council. She asked PSAC members whether there were other student groups we should contact to solicit participation on this committee. She expressed a desire to reach groups who may not be as familiar with OSU DPS or as comfortable approaching DPS leadership with questions. Dr. Moll sent an invitation for participation to the Black Student Association. Dr. Moll also asked the committee for suggestions for other faculty/staff groups that should be represented on this committee. She asked that members forward any ideas for expanding committee membership to her or Dr. McKee when they had time to think it over.

Dr. Moll asked the committee how non-attendance of members should be handled. Some discussion ensued. Dr. Moll suggested if committee members do not attend two meetings in a row (without emailing her or Dr. McKee to explain the schedule conflict beforehand), she or Dr. McKee could reach out to them to ask if they want to continue to serve on the committee, or could perhaps suggest someone from their office/academic department to replace them. There was consensus on this approach to attendance, and it was suggested that we remind committee members of this in advance of the September meeting.

The next topic on the agenda was an update on the first police-student outreach/dialogue event organized by the Outreach and Engagement Committee of the Task Force on Community Safety and Well-Being. Chief Spears-McNatt explained that this particular task force committee had been working on hosting a virtual webinar that is scheduled for April 22, 2021 from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. The event is a panel discussion moderated by students that includes Vice-Provost James Moore, Dennis Jeffery, Zone 4 Commander for the Columbus Division of Police, Chief Spears-McNatt, Director Moll, and Ellen Moore, Executive Director of Community Crime Patrol. The committee discussed options for advertising the event.

Chief Spears-McNatt said she hoped future outreach and engagement events will be informed by survey data. The Task Force on Community Safety and Well-Being conducted a student survey of perceptions of safety and perceptions of both the OSU and city police divisions. Preliminary data exists, but none of the qualitative data has been able to be synthesized yet. She is hopeful that data analysis will be complete by mid-summer.

Next Dr. Moll reported on the progress made pertaining to new training initiatives for OSUPD. All OSUPD supervisors have completed the six-week online leadership course for protecting and promoting civil and human rights through the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Chief Spears-McNatt gave an update on OSUPD's progress on ICAT training (Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics). She indicated it started in January and will continue through the end of the calendar year. She said ICAT has been very well-received by her officers. She said the trainers have been able to incorporate OSUPD's own body camera videos as training tools to improve their tactics and communications skills, and expose our police officers to more options available for de-escalating situations. (See February meeting notes for more info on both of these courses.) Additionally, the Police Division is working with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity on a train-the-trainer program where police officers are trained as instructors to deliver diversity training to other police officers and DPS employees. The train-the-trainer process should be completed by the end of the calendar year. The Kirwan Institute instructors were also invited to observe some of the other Police Division training courses throughout the year, such as ICAT training.

Dr. Moll gave an update on the OSUPD officer hiring process. There have been seven vacancies through natural attrition such as retirement or career changes. There are also three new positions being filled to add to the police service provided to the WMC emergency department – these positions were requested a couple years ago. That amounts to ten police officer vacancies that need filled. The Task Force on Community Safety and Well-Being recommended adding five other police officer positions devoted to providing police services east of High Street. Those have been put on hold until FY23 so the Police Division can fill the other vacancies first.

One group of applicants has almost been processed through the entire selection process. Two PSAC members assisted with the selection process. Katherine Betts and Sara Childers served on the panel for the panel interview step of the process. OSUPD hopes to send four new hires who have no prior police experience to the police academy in June. They hope to bring on several other new hires later this summer who have prior police experience and can begin on-the-job field training. Dr. Moll said there is some diversity among the group of applicants being processed right now. Additionally, another job posting for the police officer position closes at the end of April, and the Police Division will begin processing those applicants this summer.

Dr. Moll explained that the State of Ohio has created a new law enforcement recruitment office with the goal of helping Ohio's police agencies attract more women and minority applicants. This new office engaged with a consultant, Dr. Patrick Oliver, Director of the Criminal Justice at Cedarville University. Dr. Oliver met with Police Division and HR staff and will be conducting an assessment of OSU's police officer recruitment selection process from beginning to end this summer.

Dr. Moll provided an update on progress with the recommendations made by the Task Force on Community Safety & Well-Being that pertain to OSU DPS. Task Force members are aware that PSAC exists and they tried to integrate any recommendations related to outreach and engagement with ideas generated by PSAC. There were five task force recommendations that Dr. Moll addressed. The first

recommendation was the creation of a safety course to better prepare students for transitioning from on-campus residence halls to off-campus, privately owned residences. OSUPD is currently partnering with CPD to produce a video on this topic that could be widely accessed by students prior to moving off-campus, because conducting an in-person course for that number of students would be very challenging.

The next task force recommendation discussed was the addition of surveillance cameras in off-campus areas in the university district. Like the on-campus cameras, these cameras would not be monitored 24/7, but could be viewed in real-time if an incident occurs, or reviewed later as part of an investigation. Director Satoru Persons said his team has already added a few cameras off campus and will be adding a few more this summer. Most off-campus camera installations involve OSU engaging in an agreement with a private entity to place a camera on privately owned property. Another challenge is finding suitable locations that would not have the view obstructed by trees, shrubs, parked vehicles, etc. Director Persons said he works with CPD to determine where the crime hot spots are located so his staff can then try to identify suitable camera locations near those areas. His team is also testing a mobile camera on a trailer, about the size of a vehicle. This would enable the camera to be moved wherever needed, and it is obvious it is a public safety camera, hopefully acting as a deterrent. DPS would like to purchase two of these mobile cameras. A committee member inquired about any legal/privacy ramifications for cameras in public areas. It was explained that if a person is in an open, outdoor space, there was no expectation of privacy. Persons in those areas should anticipate that anyone, not just DPS, can legally video record what they are doing.

The next task force recommendation discussed was the funding of OSU DPS outreach and engagement activities. The task force proposed that \$20,000 be allocated to this initiative annually. Most activities will be outreach initiatives by the Police Division and will be geared toward under-represented and/or historically marginalized groups, but Dr. Moll will try to get all of the DPS divisions involved in some activities. Members discussed different ideas for engagement activities. PSAC will assist OSU DPS in determining the best use of these earmarked funds. Dan Hedman indicated DPS now has an Instagram account that students can follow so DPS can target a particular age group and advertise events for a small amount of money.

Regarding the task force recommendation pertaining to enhancing OSUPD's diversity training, Director Moll shared that the task force proposed augmenting the DPS budget by \$50,000 annually to be earmarked specifically for expanding the range of diversity training for DPS employees, especially police officers. Chief Spears-McNatt noted that she has a relatively small training budget right now, and she has to use it for every type of mandatory training that her officers need to receive on an annual basis. She indicated this additional source of funding will be very helpful in building on the existing diversity training being offered. For example, it cost OSUPD about \$18,000 to enroll all of the police supervisors in the leadership course on protecting and promoting civil and human rights this spring. PSAC members will be key partners in recommending and vetting available diversity training courses for our police officers, emergency dispatchers, and security officers.

The final task force recommendation update pertained to the addition of five police officer positions to OSUPD for the purpose of assisting with security concerns east of High Street. As noted earlier, these positions will not be funded until FY23. Some of the resources will be devoted to increased joint patrol operations with CPD in their jurisdiction off-campus, and some of the personnel will be devoted to responding to calls for service on the property the university owns east of High Street. OSUPD will need to be staffed appropriately as the university expands across High Street – new buildings are being

constructed right now near 15th & High Street.

The next agenda item pertained to small group meetings that Dr. Moll and Dr. McKee have had with people inquiring about protocols for Neighborhood Safety Notices and Buckeye Alerts. Many parents and some students have asked why text messages and emailed safety notices aren't sent for every crime. Dr. Moll stated PSAC members are probably more familiar than other members of the university community with the protocols for Neighborhood Safety Notices, Public Safety Notices and Buckeye Alerts due to the discussions we had about these protocols and the work this committee did to refine them in earlier meetings (see PSAC notes from September and October 2020 meetings). Dr. Moll said she frequently explains to concerned parents and students that Neighborhood Safety Notices are not required by the Clery Act, and are not meant to be a real-time notification of crime. They are sent by the university for off-campus crimes that could pose an ongoing threat to our students who live in the neighborhoods adjacent to campus. Typically, those will be for serious crimes of violence where a suspect has yet to be identified or apprehended. She reminded committee members that the purpose of safety notices is to inform community members of the basic facts of the incident once the details have been gathered by CPD, so the community is aware of the potential risk in the ensuing days. She explained that the immediate safety of those in the area when the incident occurs (and in the hours following the incident) is handled by the responding police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel.

Dr. Moll explained there are other sources of information about on and off-campus crime for university community members who want to be more aware of incidents and crime trends occurring in the area. For on-campus incidents, the university publishes an annual safety report that lists all Clery-reportable crime for the three prior calendar years. This annual report is usually published every October and can be found online. There is also a daily crime log that can be accessed via the OSU DPS webpage for more current information about reported incidents. For off-campus crime, CPD has a portal that can be accessed via their web-page which lists all crime reports. Additionally, there are third-party smart phone apps available, many of which are free, that provide real-time incident information. One caution Dr. Moll gave about utilizing a smart phone app is that they are often less accurate than the other sources mentioned. Many apps pull information from what is dispatched over the police radio, and often the way a call is dispatched to officers turns out to be significantly different than what is actually going on once the officers show up on scene and begin collecting information. For example, a call may go out as "shots fired" over the police radio, and is then pushed out that way on a third-party smart phone app. When officers arrive on scene, they discover it was actually fireworks and not gunshots. Anything received from this type of smart phone app or that is being passed around on social media and shared by citizens can be useful for general awareness, but should not be considered an official source. If there is a significant threat to safety, the investigating agency or the university will post something or send a safety notice.

Dr. Moll concluded the meeting by again thanking everyone for their participation on PSAC during its first academic year of existence. She reminded everyone to think about other student groups, staff groups, offices and academic departments that we may want to invite to join PSAC to make sure we are carefully considering all perspectives when working toward the process of continuous improvement in the service OSU DPS provides to the university community.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, September 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. An optional summer meeting may be scheduled to catch up on any late-spring events or activities for those who are interested in joining.

Attendees: Tracy Hahn, Monica Moll, Bob Armstrong, Doug McGrew, Moetiz Samad, Simone Drake, Adam Featherling, Nick Messenger, Mike Mandelkorn, Margaret Bussard, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Yolanda Zepeda, Satoru Persons, Micah Berman, Paul Bellair, Dan Hedman, Njeri Kagotho, Bruce Allen, Amy Young, Jeffrey McKee

PSAC Chat Notes 4.14.21

From Moetiz Samad to Everyone: 09:51 AM
Residence Hall Advisory Council (RHAC)

From Yolanda Ohio State, She/her/hers to Everyone: 09:52 AM
Office of Diversity and Inclusion Scholars

From Doug McGrew, O-H-I-O to Everyone: 10:01 AM
Wanted to share this opportunity with the group.
https://asianamericanstudies.osu.edu/events/anti-asian-racism-after-atlanta-assessing-moment?fbclid=IwAR3DiiN5oumZgZiazx3IG8rLcVHjYkFd_d08wJNPUhjVNmk0N8_QGq-wRCg

From Yolanda Ohio State, She/her/hers to Everyone: 10:05 AM
is there diversity in the applicant pools?

From hedman.11 to Everyone: 10:12 AM
Here is the recruiting page: <https://dps.osu.edu/police-careers>

From Simone Drake to Everyone: 10:35 AM
I have to run and get my second COVID shot!

From hedman.11 to Everyone: 10:40 AM
I need to break away for a staff meeting. Thank you!

From Njeri Kagotho to Everyone: 10:43 AM
I have been receiving questions about safety around BuckeyeDonuts? Has there been a string of burglaries since COVID-19?

From Yolanda Ohio State, She/her/hers to Everyone: 10:51 AM
Thank you for the good work that you are doing. I'll distribute the job postings to my networks. I need to get to the next commitment.