

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES
November 19, 2020
2:00 PM via ZOOM

Dr. McKee opened the meeting with a discussion of electing a committee chair. He indicated he volunteered to serve in that capacity to get us started, and would be willing to continue if no one else wanted to. However, he thought asking for nominations for chair and holding an election would add legitimacy to the role and give others the opportunity to get involved. Dr. Moll said Department of Public Safety employees should not chair the committee, and the group could assume that if there are no nominations for/from others, Dr. McKee will remain as chair in 2021. She asked Dr. McKee to manage the nomination/election process, and asked committee members to forward any nominations for chair to Dr. McKee so he can organize a vote by email if others are interested. Two committee members nominated Dr. McKee for chair in the chat notes during the meeting.

Dr. Moll said that unless something pressing arises between meetings, the committee would hold two meetings per semester going forward, in February and April in the spring and in September and November in autumn. She suggested rather than using Doodle polls for each meeting, we should try to choose a consistent time of day, day of week and week of the month for these meetings, and schedule them for the entire year. The committee can make adjustments, as needed, if this ends up posing a problem for attendance. She said Claudia Bonham would send out meeting invitations for 2021 before the end of this year.

Dr. Moll said she would like to create a webpage for PSAC, listing the names of committee members, their email addresses, and linking to the notes from each meeting. There seemed to be consensus that this would be a good idea. Dr. Moll said if she did not hear any objections from committee members before then, this would be added by the A&P Communications team to the DPS website in December.

Dr. Moll briefly reviewed the recommendations released the day prior from the Task Force on Community Safety and Well-Being, which focused primarily on safety off-campus in areas that are not within the primary jurisdiction of the OSU Police Division. She said the task force will be a standing committee led by co-chairs A&P Senior Vice President Jay Kasey and Student Life Vice President Melissa Shivers. She explained that the most common types of serious crime occurring in the off-campus neighborhoods where our students live are aggravated assaults, robberies, residential burglaries, thefts of vehicles, and thefts from vehicles.

Dr. Bellair discussed several possible strategies and ideas for controlling crime and regaining order in high crime areas, acknowledging most would be considered more aggressive tactics. Dr. Moll said reported crimes have generally been trending downward over the past decade in what the Columbus Division of Police refers to as the University District. However, it may seem to some that crime has gone up in those neighborhoods because more information is being shared now in real-time with community members as incidents are reported. In 2016, Ohio State began issuing Neighborhood Safety Notices for certain crimes or crime trends occurring in the University District. Dr. Moll explained the neighborhoods our students live in are not generally considered among the city's highest crime areas, although they do border on areas of the city that have more problems with crime and have recently experienced an increase in gun violence. She said the only task force recommendation that pertained to an increase in police personnel was the recommendation for gradually increasing the number of OSU PD officers participating in joint patrol in the off-campus neighborhoods. She said the goal of having at least one OSU police officer patrolling with CPD officers off-campus on a 24/7 basis would take time to achieve

because it would involve the need to hire more university police officers, which is not a quick process. She explained what joint patrol is and said a paragraph would be added to the OSU PD portion of the DPS website this week to clarify for those who are not familiar with the joint patrol initiative.

Dr. Moll said the task force took a multi-faceted, well-rounded approach to their short-term and long-term recommendations for enhancing safety in the University District, recognizing the fact that perceptions of safety and well-being can vary widely among different groups in the same geographic area. The very strategies that make one group feel safer could make another feel less safe. The task force will continue to meet and monitor progress on each recommendation, with an eye toward further reducing crime in the University District. Most of the recommendations will require partnerships between the university, the city, residents of the University District, and community organizations.

More information about the task force can be found here:

<https://news.osu.edu/ohio-state-task-force-on-community-safety-and-well-being-shares-recommendations/>

<https://ap.osu.edu/community-safety-and-well-being>

The task force recommendations can be found here:

<https://ap.osu.edu/sites/default/files/taskforcerecommendations.pdf>

Next, Dr. Moll asked Chief Kimberly Spears-McNatt to discuss the current community outreach initiatives of OSU PD, and asked committee members if they had any ideas for expanding the number of outreach opportunities with under-represented or marginalized groups on campus. Chief Spears-McNatt explained most of OSU PD's existing community outreach activities were curtailed in 2020 due to the pandemic, but stated she and her officers usually try to be very proactive in engaging the community so a person's introduction to OSU PD is a positive experience. In a typical year, some of the outreach efforts have focused on building trust with underrepresented groups, but most have been more general outreach activities. One suggestion from a committee member was to explore ways to connect OSU PD with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion's early arrival programming for certain student groups next summer. Dr. Moll also suggested committee members help identify student groups that would benefit from a police liaison. OSU PD could assign a liaison to specific student groups in an effort to build a trusting relationship over time rather than only assigning police officer liaisons in a more general way to areas like residence halls. Chief Spears-McNatt said OSU PD does this now with one or two groups, but could expand on the approach if there are groups that are willing to partner with OSU PD on this. Dr. Moll also mentioned the idea of holding a class of the Community Police Academy next year that is reserved specifically for individuals from underrepresented groups.

Dr. Moll said she would welcome any other ideas that come up before the next meeting in February, but we will discuss this topic again then. Any committee member who has suggestions should feel free to reach out to her or Chief Spears-McNatt in the interim.

Attendees: Mustafa Abubakr, Lulu Montes, Nicholas Dang, Abdul Kaba, Stephen Post, Ben Walberg, Yolanda Zepeda, Dr. Rachel Bowen, Katherine Betts, Amy Young, Kelly Smith, Dr. Qiana Smith, Holly Davis, Dr. Paul Bellair, Dr. Njeri Kagotho, Dr. Jeffrey McKee, Micah Berman, Monica Moll, Kimberly Spears-McNatt, Tracy Hahn, Adam Featherling, Joanna Shaul, Doug McGrew, Mike Mandelkorn, Bob Armstrong, Satoru Persons, Margaret Bussard, Dan Hedman.

PSAC CHAT NOTES 11.19.20

From Yolanda Zepeda to Everyone: 02:04 PM

I nominate Dr. McKee

From paul to Everyone: 02:05 PM

I nominate Dr. McKee

From Rachel Bowen to Everyone: 02:06 PM

I'm not certain the chair would need to be a faculty or staff member. There are Senate committees with student chairs.

From Holly Davis to Everyone: 02:42 PM

Increasing OSUPD officers joint patrolling with CPD would be my number one priority. OSUPD officers understand working with college students and can model educational and trauma-informed approaches for CPD. My hope would be that the University financially commits to give OSUPD the resources to be able to get staffing levels where they need to be in order to do that.

From Micah Berman to Everyone: 02:55 PM

I'm a new committee member, so I don't know the whole background. But to follow up on the task force recommendations, what strikes me is that the vast majority of the recommendations are focused on off-campus students. Only 2 (on the last page) on the broader community. The second one on that page seems to be just highlighting other initiatives already going on. The third one is about expanding social services outreach, which is great. Is the task force also going to provide recommendations about the resources needed to implement these recommendations? What's the process from here?

From Yolanda Zepeda to Everyone: 02:57 PM

Office of Div & Inclusion conducts early arrival programs for several student groups, this is an opportunity to meet students as they are entering the university--I think that we are already hearing from the chief, but also identifying some officers who can be go-to officers liaisoning with our student groups

From Njeri Kagotho (she/her) to Everyone: 03:01 PM

Jumping off for another meeting. Take care all and have a happy Thanksgiving

From Rachel Bowen to Everyone: 03:04 PM

Thanks everyone!

From Kelly Smith (she/her/hers) to Everyone: 03:04 PM

Thanks Everyone! I always appreciate what you have to share Dr. Moll!