

Campus Safety Workgroup Meeting

September 27th, 2021

Attendance

Present: Liz Watkins, Julia McLean, Jamie Lopez, Denise Woods, Marko Princevac, Ana Coria, Nancy Jean Tubbs, Jennifer Winfield, Jen Hung, Elizabeth Romero, Elaine Wong, erin rook, Mike Cabral, Alex Cortez, Andrew Williams, George Williams, Nichi Yes

Absent: Christopher Fernandez, Regina Stell, Boris Maciejovsky, Matthew Chang

Agenda in Brief

Welcome (Liz Watkins)

New Members & Student Participation

Meeting Minute Approval

Health, Well-Being, and Safety (Denise Woods)

Q&A and Discussion

Inviting UCPD - Discussion

Meeting In-Person

Closing

Meeting Minutes

Welcome (Liz Watkins)

New members

New member introductions.

Still short on student representation. Student Affairs is working hard to fill spaces on our committee. This is a high-intensity service requirement. If you have any interested students please let Christine Mata or Brian Haynes know.

Meeting minute approval

Email Julia by end of day if you have any notes, otherwise we will post.

The New Unit of Health, Well-Being, and Safety (AVC Denise Woods)

Overview of Division of Health, Well-Being, and Safety & presentation

This is a draft presentation, not public yet, but I want to share how we will further integrate the recommendations. I've spoken with several folks on the cabinet and Interim Police Chief John Freese, and they are aware of the plans that are moving forward.

The new division is integrating PD, CARE, and other units and the message is that PD is not in a bubble, it will be a holistic approach to think of safety within the context of health and well-being.

As students face increased pressures, UCR wanted a framework for a seamless and purposeful approach to support student well-being. Move into the 21st century, understanding that students are not just students – they are whole people and how their lives are impacted outside of the classroom has a significant impact on what they do inside the classroom.

Presentation on the implementation plan.

Q&A and discussion on presentation

Key takeaways from discussion:

- Transparency and responsibility in hiring.
- Students (domestic, international) should be able to apply for these positions.
- Analyst positions should be transparent and unbiased; want the reporting to be impartial.
- Comprehensive background checks for all positions, looking for more than just sustained issues but even single incidences of impropriety.
- Broadly representative search committees for all positions; likely involving folks from this workgroup.

Inviting Police Department - Discussion

Question to the group: Should we invite a member of UCPD to participate?

Discussion Points:

- Since this sits in Dr. Woods' portfolio, UCPD is not cut out of the group entirely. However, in the name of inclusion and building trust, it would be helpful to have a UCPD representative.
- This workgroup discusses overarching safety issues, so someone in a role like Interim Chief John Freese would be most appropriate.
- Must maintain a sense of privacy/confidentiality in these meetings, as we need to have open and candid conversations to work out implementation.
- The role of this committee is not to do what is easy for UCPD, but what is best for safety on this campus as a whole.

Decision: Yes, invite Interim Chief of Police John Freese to join. Participation is understood as an inclusive gesture and for Chief Freese to participate as an equal working group member.

Campus Open – Meet in-person?

Are we open to meeting in-person? Any concerns?

- It is difficult for some to make in-person meetings. If possible, let's have them in a room where remote attendees can still hear and engage.
 - Conference call vs. Zoom, either is fine, as long as visuals shared in the meeting are sent to remote attendees ahead of time.

Closing

Thank you all, we will convene again in a few weeks with more students and Chief Freese. Denise and I will work on next steps.