

University of Pittsburgh University Senate

Student Admissions, Aid, and Affairs Committee (SAAA) Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2022

(video recording available upon request)

Called to order 3:00pm

Attendance

Elected Members

Barbara Rauscher Dewhirst, School of Nursing

Nancy Glynn, Co-Chair, SPH

Clare Russell, Dietrich School, Department of English

Uma Satyavolu, Dietrich School, Department of English

Sybil Streeter, Co-Chair, Dietrich School, Department of Psychology

Chancellor's Liaisons

Kenyon Bonner, Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Mark Harding, Vice Provost for Enrollment

Senate Appointments

Robin Kear, Senate President

Guests

Chief James Loftus, Pitt Police

Deputy Chief Holly Lamb, Pitt Police

Shannon O'Shea, University Communications

Meeting began at 3:05pm

- 1) Approval of Minutes from September 2022 - Approved
- 2) Report on campus safety (Chief Loftus, Deputy Chief Lamb)

Chief Loftus Report:

- 3 cases have come to everyone's attention through crime alerts
- In conjunction and discussions with student government folks and others, decided to expand and now everyone with a Pitt email address gets criminal alerts, not the just 2600 that "opted in"
- New alerts have prompted a lot of concern and discussion; good because it's great to be informed, and it's great to educate
- There were three cases pretty early on in the year we had a case in a residence hall.
- The subject was identified very quickly, case was put together, an investigation was put together and presented for prosecution, and it was decided that a prosecution would not occur at this time. So that case is now being resolved through the University's administrative process.

- The second case is being investigated by the City of Pittsburgh police. They have made a tentative identification of the subject involved, it's not one of our students, and they are moving towards hopefully an arrest in, and prosecution.
- The third case, which seems to have captured most of the attention, has been the case in the cathedral, where one of our students was assaulted in a stairwell. We're still working this case, it is our case alone; reviewing hundreds of hours of video footage, working with tips that we've received from all facets of the University community, (ie., our students, our faculty and our staff), and we're hopefully moving towards some type of identification of the subject student involved there. It's been a a slow and laborious process.
- On the preventative side with all three of those cases in mind and talking about the cathedral in particular, we decided that we would put a fixed static post at the Fifth Avenue side of the Cathedral where we have a guard.
- We increase the presence in the Cathedral and in the stairwells, with officers walking through common areas
- We have community programs, with officers who are available to talk to students
- We're moving towards implementing some additional cameras in the cathedral, as it stands now, there are seventy-five cameras in the cathedral. We're looking to increase the profile there by having cameras in the stairwells.
- Some have voiced concerns about the increased security presence. Our posture is that where there is a crime, prevention, and intervention method. And right now, that's the best thing we can do to keep everyone who frequents the building as safe as possible. We know there's a very fine line there between security and intrusion. We're pretty sure we know where that line is, and we're very respectful of that.
- From Deputy Lamb: As far as the Clery Act goes, there's certain crimes that we have to report on. So there's certain crimes that you're going to see as far as sex assaults, burglaries, robberies, things like that. So you're not going to see a crime alert on a theft of a couch down in South Oakland.
- Rave Guardian App is useful; urge everyone to download it. Has a lot of great tips and resources but need a critical mass to make it work.
- There was a Town hall yesterday that we hosted with the Student Government Board to discuss sexual assault and campus Safety Chief Loftus. Good information was shared from administrative perspective to hear students concerns and questions, helped us get a sense of where the gaps are and what isn't working, what is working. And so from that standpoint Vice Provost Bonner found it very helpful. The panelists liked the ability for folks like Chief Loftus and our Title IX office to answer questions was particularly helpful for students. Obviously lots of emotions and frustration from the students.

3) Enlist subcommittee to work with EPC re: Provost "Religious Observances" memo

- Form ad hoc committee
- Sybil attended the Educational Policies Committee meeting last month. Some concerns were raised to us about the breadth of the content of the Provost's email titled religious observances about not penalizing students for absences, non-disability related illness and

- physical impairment as well as concern to stress or trauma. But no guidance was provided on how to accomplish that goal.
- Educational Policies Committee agrees that this is an important issue, but they've asked that we form a working group to partner with them, and in in talking with the Provost, and trying to get some clarity on that.
 - Sybil offered to be on the ad hoc working group, and solicited others to join the effort. Uma Satyavolu and Clare Russell volunteered.
- 4) Draft statement for students observing Ramadan 2023 (cf. EIDAC 2019 memo attached)
- a. Sybil will reach out to EIDAC to work together to draft early statement to faculty

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00pm