

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)
Kick-off Meeting: December 2, 2020
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Welcome and Introductions – Alvin Alvarez, Inaugural Chair for PSAC

- **Alvin** welcomed everyone and thanked all members of the committee for their time and their important service. Everyone was given the opportunity to introduce themselves.
- He briefly reviewed the agenda items for today's meeting, and then introduced President Mahoney.

Committee Charge - President Mahoney

- **President Mahoney** thanked Beth Hellwig and Reggie Parson for launching the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), which she referred to as "*perhaps the most important initiative of the year.*"
- She expressed gratitude to Alvin for agreeing to serve as the inaugural Chair for PSAC and also communicated her thanks to each member for their time and commitment.
- The President was especially thrilled to see committee members that are Alumni that are university residents and their commitment to the institution.
- The President indicated the following items below regarding PSAC's role and charge:
 - The PSAC serves in an advisory capacity to the President, the Vice Presidents and the campus community.
 - Identify how we currently enact campus safety, where the lapses are and what can be done to improve, as well as identify opportunities to serve the campus community.
 - "Modest" Campus Safety Goal: to be the top model for other colleges and universities in the U.S. on how we achieve campus safety and how we work with and serve the community. In order to do this, PSAC must be willing to run towards criticism and engage in continuous improvement.

Other comments by the President:

- The work towards becoming the *modest* goal to be the top model for all colleges and universities across the U.S. has already begun as the University Police and Campus Safety is located under Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, which is symbolic of who we are as an institution and what we expect. Also, Reggie is a member of the Student Affairs Council which directly transforms the work involving campus safety due to his role as Chief of Police & AVP of Campus Safety, as well as the rich experience he brings to us based on his long and distinguished career.
- PSAC is to identify issues on campus and beyond campus, to act as a liaison between the Campus Community and the University Police and Administration.
- The President will look to PSAC as a conduit for information and continuous improvement – what are you hearing on campus, off campus and nationally? How do we incorporate this in the work of Campus Safety, University Police and in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management to engage all this in continuous improvement?

Origins of Community Based Partnerships – Reggie Parsons, AVP for Campus Safety and Chief of Police

- **Reggie** shared the following about successfully building trust and establishing a good relationship with the community and what may be done to insure that PSAC's work continues for future generations on campus:
 - Create a broad community-based structure (PSAC) to co-produce public safety initiatives.
 - Co-produced initiatives limits apprehension and is much easier to successfully implement.
 - Currently a document about the format of campus safety is being produced. It will be presented to President Mahoney in the future for her review and approval, with the goal of incorporating it as part of the University's Mission.
 - In collaboration with AVP Hellwig, he created a short term work group that determined the requests and needs of the campus community that did not require UPD involvement but can be handled by the Housing and Residential Life.
 - There is currently another short-term work group that addresses mental health. This group is working with Chairs and other campus partners, soliciting their expertise and advice to review and improve current campus protocols.

- Similarly to these work groups, Reggie hopes that PSAC can identify other areas in our campus community and make recommendations for improvement, as well as work on re-branding the university police department to help build trust and relationship with the community.
 - Also needed are training resources for response partners.
 - Reggie encouraged PSAC members to share their opinions, feedback and perceptions – any negative experiences they may have with the campus police department.
- A brief discussion regarding the need for students to have access points in order to convey their experiences regarding their interaction with campus police. There is room for improvement in the current use of social media, but there appears to be the essential need to identify other access points as the use of social media may be a stigma. PSAC to discuss further in future meetings.

Committee Principles – Alvin Alvarez, Inaugural Chair for PSAC

- **Alvin** would like to be on the same page on how work will be done in PSAC. He recognized the committee will be discussing topics that can be uncomfortable. There may be disagreements as we each have personal experiences that shape our individual perceptions.
- In order for the committee to do their work well, how we engage in these discussions is really important.
- Alvin asked the committee, “What do you need from me as the Chair of this committee in order for this committee to be effective?”

Below are some of the responses to this question:

- Establish a framework for discussions in that we all agree to stay focused on the issues, and avoid speaking negatively about people or attacking individuals.
- When discussions are not going well, any committee member can say a code/word to request to pause the discussions to take a break, or to table the topic for another time.
- Perhaps having a Mission Statement for the group.
- Stay mindful of our common goals, which is to help the campus community.
- Inclusivity & Voice: it is important and expected to bring your own personal views and expertise, and also allow others time to speak and to contribute, as well.
- It will be useful to the committee to know the goals of UPD and the goals for the campus community.
- Establish a fair and inclusive process ahead of time with regards to actionable items such as, voting, making decisions, making recommendations to the President, etc.

Other comments by Alvin

- Group consensus/agreement is not an expectation, but we all need to be mindful when dissent becomes destructive and as a result begins to fray the ability of the group to effectively work together.
- The committee will need foundational understanding before we begin work. Part of this is understanding how we all connect to the larger issue, and information you may need to understand UPD.

Action Item for committee:

- Email your responses to below question to Alvin aalvarez@sfsu.edu within the next week, by Dec 9th.
What do you need to know about UPD to be effective in this group?

Meeting Logistics – Alvin Alvarez

- Proposed to the group to meet one time a month and everyone agreed.
- Cristina will schedule these meetings.
- Please be flexible as it can be difficult to find a time and date when everyone in a group this size are available.