

## Public Safety Advisory Committee Notes

July 6, 2021

Notes submitted by: CAlcantara [cba@sfsu.edu](mailto:cba@sfsu.edu)

### General Overview– Alvin Alvarez

The agenda for today's meeting is to discuss the ideas and recommendations provided by the Community Engagement and Communications Subcommittees. There are a lot of rich ideas. Today we will discuss as many as we can and allow folks to share their input and help identify items we are ready to take on. Thanks to both subcommittees for their work, and for Bridget and Chris for compiling these ideas and recommendations and forwarding to all of us for review prior to today's meeting.

Alvin sent the first Annual Report to President Mahoney and Academic Senate Chair, Teddy Albinak on June 18, 2021. Alvin reported that both President Mahoney and Academic Senate Chair, Teddy Albinak are pleased with the scope of PSAC's work, and both are open to participating this fall semester once PSAC's plans are concretized.

**The Community Engagement Subcommittee brought forth the following recommendations listed below.** (Members: Bridget McCracken (convener), Dae Philpot, Corporal Enrique Castro Vera Cruz and Nicole Buitrago)

Bridget McCracken presented the subcommittee's ideas and summarized their recommendations listed below.

Comments, input and questions from various PSAC members are below the listed recommendations.

1. Expand participation, visibility, and transparency of committee.
  - a. Expand scope of PSAC focus from safety to include campus health and consider including in name, language, and information promoted.
  - b. Define the scope of influence and power which the recommendations of the committee hold. An understanding of this will guide the priorities and goals of the committee which will need to be reported on to the campus community.
  - c. Increase student representation (to 50% of committee) and from staff and high impact community members like Health Promotion and Wellness, labor unions and building coordinators.
  - d. Prioritize the agenda and meeting minutes including new and old business, actionable items, and deadlines to be provided to community weeks in advance to allow for review and input.
  - e. Expand the leadership of PSAC to include a Co-Chair who is a student.
  - f. Create Subcommittees who report to the Co-Chairs and the larger committee. The subcommittees would work on areas highlighted in the recent committee report. In addition, create a structural and institutional change subcommittee.
  - g. Make PSAC meetings open, viewable, and streamed.

- h. Allow for announcements and comments from community members during an open forum time at PSAC meetings.
  - i. Create an opportunity for “Office Hours” where community members can drop in and meet with committee members.
2. Increase committee community engagement activities.
- a. Create a PSAC Website/social media presence.
  - b. Connect with other groups/organizations who are engaging with administrators and other campus community members to explore what’s worked and not worked.
    - i. Utilizing our current student reps to potentially create a list of students/student organizations PSAC could collaborate with and increase student participation.
    - ii. Attend a general meeting of ASI to promote PSAC and recruit student reps.
    - iii. Connect with Deans, chair, faculty, campus memo to promote committee and increase student representatives.
3. Consider forums, lecture series, listening tours – consider what will be most valuable, impactful, doable given the time and effort required.
- a. Delegate committee member(s) who will collect community ideas and assist PSAC committee in being held accountable to acting within the committee’s power.
  - b. Exploring preventative/holistic response to students in crisis vs. reactive responses

**Discussion, Comments, Questions and Input from various PSAC members:**

*What is the ongoing work done by “campus health” that was alluded to and how is it tied with the work we are doing in PSAC?*

Response from Subcommittee: In previous PSAC meetings we discussed existing groups on campus that provide health services to students and we want to engage those existing groups. For example, Health Promotion and Wellness (HPW) is doing work around increasing the campus community’s awareness regarding the impact of trauma and violence. Perhaps we can bring that knowledge and expertise about community engagement into PSAC and consider having a representative from HPW, as well as from Student Organizations and CFA (California Faculty Association/Union) that also have experience in engaging the community. We do not have to start from scratch if we could tap into these groups to help us.

Comment from two PSAC members: These ideas appear to impact the scope of work and would expand it greatly, including PSAC’s mission and membership

*What is the “elevator speech” in approaching these groups? What do we tell them about PSAC and how do we explain to them why their involvement is needed?*

Response from the Subcommittee: The important piece for us was to recognize the current shape of PSAC is like a pyramid, it is “top down”. There are a lot of administrators, staff members and faculty members that comprise this committee, and the work done here will have a direct impact on our students. In order to better reflect the community we are serving, we thought it is important to build relationships with student community members that have raised their concern about UPD and to make them feel like a part of this committee/PSAC and bring their voice to the table. In doing so we believe we can build trust with students.

Comment from PSAC member: Most committees on campus seem to be created by some type of resolution or Academic Senate charge. On the university website, there is a section that indicates PSAC acts as an advisory to the President. Is there a document that exist that already outlines this advisory role? Or can we create our own agenda and define our role?

The links below were added to the chat box. The document on the CSU website indicates all CSU campuses are to establish a committee on public safety that has an advisory role to the Presidents.

Document on CSU website: [Viewing Campus Police and Safety Advisory Committee :: PolicyStat](#)

Link to PSAC website at SFSU: [Public Safety Advisory Committee | Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management \(sfsu.edu\)](#)

Per Alvin, PSAC on our campus reports to both President Mahoney and the Academic Senate Chair, Teddy Albiniak. PSAC’s composition, charge and scope and all the related items discussed today requires consultation with them.

Per Alvin, in listening to the ideas presented, the two main clusters that stand out to him are,

- 1) The charge and scope of the committee.
- 2) The composition of the committee.

Alvin asked PSAC members to share their thoughts about broadening the mission and scope to include health and incorporating this in PSAC. The following are comments and responses from various members:

- There is an opportunity to expand PSAC the way we as a committee see fit.
- In terms of public safety, we think along the lines of protecting our community from “stranger danger” in preventing violence, which also can be viewed as a public health issue so both areas intersect in many ways.
- An example of how public safety and health intersects would be campus repopulation in the fall. There would likely be an increase of mental health issues that may result in more crime which impacts public safety. Instead of being reactive, we can work on preventative measures to be prepared.
- If we shift from policing to health, we would need to be mindful how we transition. It’s important to figure out what is the best approach as to how we go about implementing the change towards a holistic approach to safety. For example, the process and information required to receive services from CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) could be improved.
- The following questions were directed to Reggie or Enrique.  
*What do you see is the delineation between the work they do in UPD and the work of Public Safety that is beyond the scope of UPD? What are some major things that UPD is called out for that UPD would consider is outside their purview?*

Reggie: We view the Student Health Center and CAPS as our collaboration partners in providing safety for our campus community. We work together and when situations become a physical safety issue, UPD steps in to provide direct support to the individual(s) involved. Another example that comes to mind is the training for Bystander Intervention because it is a partnership with Residential Life and UPD, and it is a preventative and proactive that works hand in hand with public safety that involves collaborative work. To expand representation on our committee is something to consider as we work to enhance and improve public safety. We could even consider partnering with the Basic Needs Support group, as well.

- Another cluster we would like to highlight is community participation, whether it is via open forum, streaming our meetings, more ways for the community to hear our conversations and opportunities to participate, as well.
- It seems there should be “sequencing” involved in that prior to making any change, PSAC needs to be clear about its goals before broadening anything. Being clear on the goals would determine the scope, membership and representation of PSAC to include the lens on health and prevention.

Alvin took the pulse of the group and it appears that in principle the members agreed to broadening the mission and scope and to include health. He will consult with President Mahoney and Chair Albiniak.

The next discussion Alvin facilitated was on the cluster of ideas presented by the Community Engagement Subcommittee about broadening the composition or representation of PSAC to include other groups such as the CFA, HPW and more students, as well as the idea around flattening leadership to include a student as a Co-Chair for PSAC. The following are the comments and responses that were made:

- The idea of having a student as a Co-Chair sounds good but it would be helpful to first refer to the Executive Order document that outlines how this is done, if it would require an election process or simply appointing a student.
- Another helpful item we need to know is the duration of the terms required to serve on PSAC.
- Reggie thinks there is language on his initial proposal he submitted to the President that outlines the terms and he will try to find it and share it with the group.
- There are nine voting members that represents various segments across campus serving two year terms – two staff members, two faculty, two students, two administrators and one community member. There are also Ex-Officio members that are basically department heads. Membership was already set up prior to Alvin’s appointment as the inaugural Chair. There was no other information or guidelines provided to him about membership.

No additional comments or responses were made as members need more time to think about broadening representation. This discussion will continue at next month’s meeting.

The last topic of discussion was regarding access to PSAC, i.e. open forums, streamlining meetings, etc. The following are the comments that were made:

- Access to our work would allow us to be accountable to the campus community and insure we accomplish our goals.
- The idea is a good one though we need to strike a balance. It’s important for the committee to hear the input of the community, and to also have the space to work together.
- Perhaps we can continue our monthly meetings and add a separate meeting for the campus community, to just listen and gather their input.
- The Community Engagement Subcommittee thanked PSAC for their input and pointed out their preliminary recommendations were based on the limited information they had. It appears PSAC has some freedom to shape the scope and influence it has, and it would be helpful to know what the parameters are and then go from there to include others in a responsible manner. Further discussions around scope seems to be necessary.
- Another necessity is the need for more time as we address all the complexities of these discussions.

For next month's meeting, the recommendations from the Communications Subcommittee will be presented and discussed. The Community Engagement Subcommittee was asked to add language in their recommendation about expanding the scope, and to include specifically who they are recommending as representatives on the committee. Alvin would like PSAC to review this new language, gather their input and fine tune it. If all members are in agreement, he can bring it to President Mahoney and Chair Albinak for consultation.

**"Parking Lot" Items: Ongoing Depository of Ideas, Questions and Concerns:**

1. **Install Security Cameras in the UPN properties.** Residents' packages have been stolen, and one member on the PSAC advised her car was damaged ("totaled") a few months ago.
  - FYI Per Reggie: "There are a myriad of technology, fiscal, and policy considerations that need to be made for installation of surveillance systems on campus. We can definitely initiate conversations on utilizing and implementation of surveillance systems in the Public Safety Advisory Committee and can include this in our list of foundational questions."
2. **Provide better lighting in the residential community.**
  - FYI per Reggie: "In past years, UPD collaborated with Facilities, Housing, and Res Life to conduct a Night Safety Walk program around the campus and the residential community. During the safety walk, participants would identify lighting and other safety issues which were documented. The UPD Crime Prevention Coordinator would submit a work order to Facilities with recommendations for repairs and installation of lights, as needed. We look forward to continuing with the safety walk program once COVID related restrictions are lifted."
3. **Review/Discuss housing agreement amendment XXI Right of Entry**, which indicates:  
"The University shall have the right to enter the premises occupied by Licensee for the purposes of emergency, health, safety, maintenance, management of applicable rules and regulations, or for any other lawful purpose. The University shall exercise these rights reasonably and with respect for Licensee's right to be free from unreasonable searches and intrusions into study or privacy. When possible, the University shall give Licensee(s) reasonable notice of its intention to enter the Premises and shall enter only during normal business hours."
  - Is it possible to revise this so that the only time that facilities member can enter an apartment is after proper notification in non-emergent situations?
4. **Work with Student Marketing & University Communications** to broadly publicize ongoing efforts by UPD. Let campus community know about the work being done in PSAC, and the recent efforts already made by UPD as well as the reallocation of resources that have been made to provide holistic services to students.
5. **Best way to communicate PSAC work.** What is the most appropriate way this can be done – who, how, when and where? The monthly Leadership Forum is one venue to consider, where else? Alvin to raise this with VP Hellwig and keep PSAC posted.
6. **Armed Officers** – discuss experiences from a student perspective, and explore if there are other alternatives for officers to carry arms, if possible.

Below items were added at PSAC meeting dated 3/17/2021:

**7. Classroom & Office Altercations:**

- 1) PSAC to help determine situations that does not require UPD to be the first point of contact. Right now, the front line responders are UPD.
- 2) Awareness Training for both Campus Community & UPD.
- 3) Communication/Instructions: Place a list of range of resources and emergency/non-emergency Contact Info in a highly visible area in every classroom.
- 4) Culture Shift. The current culture is to call the police when you do not know who to call when you need help. How to we shift away from this? And do we have the necessary resources available, i.e. mental healthcare providers 24/7.

**8. Do we have the resources available to route calls/situations away from UPD?**

Take a deeper dive of the coordination of resources and offices in CAPs and in Equity & Inclusions to determine if there are still “bald patches.” Identify what can be improved and what other services/resources are available.

9. Invite Stephen Chen and/or other task force members that are working on improving the response protocols for mental health services.

Below items were added at PSAC meeting dated 4/21/2021:

10. After PSAC completes the learning phase, at some point we need to move on to discuss/determine how to make PSAC meetings accessible to all students. Example – invite students to PSAC meetings, or schedule additional meetings specifically for representatives from student organizations such as GUPS, BSU & ASU to provide their perspectives (General Union of Palestine Students, Black Student Union & Asian American Students).
11. Think about inviting CFA to a PSAC meeting to hear about the work they are doing around campus safety. Discuss what kind of relationship (if any) can be established between PSAC and CFA.

Below items were added at PSAC meeting dated 5/12/2021:

12. What is the role of Race and Racism? How does this affect UPD – how it’s working, not working? What are the patterns that continue to contribute to racism? How does this impact UPD and the perceptions of the campus community?
13. Follow through and Communication: How does UPD demonstrate progress or change, and how is this communicated to the campus community? It will be critical to establish an active feedback loop that includes follow-through and communication. Whether or not UPD or PSAC are able to implement suggestions provided by members of the campus community, acknowledgment of their feedback must take place along with a progress report.

14. Invite Guiselle Nunez, AVP for Strategic Marketing & Communication, to a Fall PSAC meeting to discuss the best ways to communicate to the campus community – to effectively communicate progress, follow-through, surveys, etc.