

CAMPUS SAFETY COMMISSION

SUMMIT ON SAFETY AND BELONGING

SUMMARY OF FALL 2020 LISTENING SESSIONS

POLICE BEHAVIOR DURING PROTEST EVENTS:

- glad-handling confederate sympathizers/lack of arrests
- police procedures during protests: false arrest, infiltration of student groups, lack of follow-up
- lack of priority for threats from white supremacists, considering extreme threats felt by marginalized communities
- over-policing black spaces compared to white
- police training: racial equity, cultural competency, mental illness
- hostility and unprofessional engagement with students seen, rightly or wrongly, as "troublemakers"

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND DANGER:

- Sexual assaults far too prevalent, particularly in fraternities and residence halls, rape culture
- Frat court as a danger zone
- Victims of assault often leave the university with no follow-up, whereas their perpetrators remain with no sanction.
- Clery report on retaliation of those who report sexual assault, and the misuse of the Honor Court
- Need to implement recommendations of the Swecker report, especially with regard to police training and policies.
- Alcohol abuse on and off campus; frat and dormitory culture
- Lighting, and "stranger rape" danger in town and on campus

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Alert Carolina: Thunderstorms more widely announced than armed white supremacists on Franklin St.
- Delays with sexual assault and other threats such as white supremacists indicate to those potentially targeted that they are not the University's first priority. Not enough real-time information on assaults and physical safety concerns of our students, staff, and faculty.
- Conflict of interest in protecting institutional reputation and image versus allowing students and community members to protect themselves.
 - This relates to timely warnings as well as to FERPA retractions.
- Lack of student, faculty, and staff representation on Alert Carolina advisory board.

PHYSICAL SAFETY:

- Lighting, bus stops, bus schedules during holidays and after dark / in winter.
- Safety for female students walking on campus or in adjacent areas (frat court, Rosemary / Franklin St.) at night.
- More clarity on gun carrying spaces and restricting them further. Why can confederate sympathizers feel comfortable wearing guns, carrying large knives, right on Franklin St. next to campus while threatening the safety and security of UNC students? What can be done to stop this?
- More comprehensive police training on ensuring physical safety of the campus community, including off campus.

ANTI-RACIST ACTIVISM:

- "It is evident that UNC police also sometimes harass protesters as they go about their regular business on campus."
- "To the public it appeared a different standard of security exists for protesters against the Silent Sam monument and protestors supporting monument's public display."
- Fear of excessive force from the police, but also fear for physical safety from pro-Silent Sam protesters from off campus. Fear that the police are sympathetic to the confederate sympathizers, particularly since the BOG decision to subsidize them.
- Lack of transparency about possible police misconduct and investigations; Need for police accountability measures

SAFETY OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES:

- Effects of institutionalized racism and historical whiteness on a predominantly white campus, the lack of a sense of belonging for marginalized students. This promotes a feeling of lack of safety, distrust, and other anxieties.
- Feeling of lack of support by some faculty for those with marginalized interests and backgrounds.
- Feeling devalued by the administration. Lack of diversity in administration leadership positions.
- Feeling unprotected by the police in situations of real danger of violence and harm by outside perpetrators filled with hate.
- Net result of all these factors: the emotional and mental well-being of many students suffers. Also very little trust, given the history and accumulation of recent events.