

CAMPUS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
February 5, 2020

The Campus Safety Commission met on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 in Carroll Hall, Room 305. Chairs DeVetta Holman and Frank Baumgartner convened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Eric Muller, Emily Blackburn, Frank Baumgartner, DeVetta Holman, Josh Romero, Maya Weinstein, Brian Curran, Larry Grossberg, Jim Herrington (remote call-in), Desirée Rieckenberg, Brandon Washington, Kim Strom-Gottfried, Quinton Smith, Charles Branny Vickory, De'Ivyion Drew (remote call-in), Robert Campbell

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Maya Weinstein proposed an amendment to remove her name from the attendance list for the December 16, 2019 meeting. On motion of Brian Curran and a second by Eric Muller, the amendment was accepted. Following this amendment, on motion of Branny Vickory and a second by Larry Grossberg, the minutes of both December 2019 minutes were approved.

[A copy of these minutes is located at csc.unc.edu]

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

Commission member Brian Curran, in reference to the January Summit on Safety and Belonging, sought clarification regarding whether the Chancellor indicated that the Commission could take part in an oversight committee for the UNC Police Department. Chair Baumgartner noted that the Commission will need to create its own proposal for this process; this process will need to be will thought out and presented through the May report.

Commission member Kim Strom noted the importance of remembering the threats and unpleasant emails that faculty have received as we navigate this process.

No members of the public came forward to speak during the open comment period of the agenda.

2020 SUMMIT ON SAFETY AND BELONGING

The Commission took part in a discussion regarding the 2020 Summit on Safety and Belonging, which took place on Tuesday, January 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Genome Sciences Building G100.

Commission member Larry Grossberg noted that while he though the Summit was a great public relations success, the recommendations presented at the Summit were not discussed internally before the formal presentation. Grossberg stated that he felt as if there were some recommendations that should have been prioritized less in the context of the Summit, as they were not relevant to the purpose of the Commission and were redundant to what other entities are currently doing on campus. Grossberg suggested that the Commission identify a short list of

what recommendations are most relevant to the Commission and are a priority, and then the Commission should present these formally to the Chancellor.

Commission member Eric Muller noted that, in his opinion, the Commission came off as a strong, active body in the setting of the Summit – it was not portrayed as a passive body that simply supports the Chancellor’s statements. Muller recommended that the Commission allow senior leadership to respond to the recommendations shared at the Summit and provide a response to what they propose in the form of the Commission’s annual report.

Commission member Kim Strom observed that the Commission’s recommendations at the Summit were necessary but not sufficient for the purpose of including other sources of data – not just relying on listening session feedback. Strom also emphasized that the Commission should not be responsible for planning the execution of these recommendations, but instead proposing the recommendations with the goal of restoring trust among the community.

YEAR END REPORT (MAY 2020)

Chair Baumgartner outlined the content of the Campus Safety Commission’s Year End Report, suggesting that it would be comprised of two parts: 1) a summary of the Commission’s activities and 2) a list of recommendations for the restoration of trust in the Carolina community.

Next, a discussion of process ensued regarding the proper protocol for approving each recommendation included in the report. Chair Baumgartner proposed a majority vote of members present for each individual recommendation, while Commission member Joshua Romero proposed a 2/3 vote in order to reflect more representative support from the Commission for each recommendation. In response to Joshua’s proposal, Commission member Kim Strom noted that a 2/3 vote could implement a higher bar for the Commission to be more critical of the recommendations put forth. A consensus was not reached regarding the process for selecting recommendations.

Commission member Desirée Rieckenberg suggested that the Commission reference the Mental Health Task Force model as a starting point and process for the Commission’s activities. She also noted, in reference to the prior discussion on voting standards, that there is power in putting the full weight of the Commission behind unanimously confirmed agreement on recommendations.

Commission member Branny Vickory noted that it may be a good idea to indicate which of the final recommendations (contained in the Year End Report) received the unanimous consent of the Commission. To this point, Commission member Larry Grossberg stated that it could be beneficial to note which recommendations were agreed upon unanimously, and which recommendations are still under consideration. This would serve as a means to inform future commission members of what agenda items could be carried forth over time.

A brief review of the recommendations proposed at the Summit took place to determine which ideas would advance to the contents of the Year End Report. While all recommendations were agreed to move forward, many were flagged for additional research and rewording for the Year

End Report. The review of recommendations led the Commission into a conversation regarding the expressed values of the Campus Safety Commission. Chair Baumgartner proposed that the Commission vote to approve a statement that expresses that we understand our mission to include promoting ideas that support the safety and belonging of marginalized communities. To this point, several Commission members noted that the Commission has not yet officially defined the terms “safety” and “marginalized communities”. A consensus was reached that these topics would be a part of the agenda for the March meeting and should be tabled until then.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Baumgartner called for a motion to adjourn. Joshua Romero made the motion; Kim Strom seconded, and it passed. Chair Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 11:01 AM.