

CAMPUS SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
March 4, 2020

The Campus Safety Commission met on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 in Carroll Hall, Room 305. Chairs DeVetta Holman and Frank Baumgartner convened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Brandon Washington, Frank Baumgartner, DeVetta Holman, Maya Weinstein, Larry Grossberg, Robert Campbell, Branny Vickory, Eric Muller, Kim Strom (remote call-in), Emily Blackburn, De'Ivyion Drew, Jim Herrington (remote call-in), Charles Streeter (remote call-in)

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Larry Grossberg 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 the February meeting were approved.

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

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

Emily Blackburn presented the new Campus Safety Commission website, which can be found at csc.unc.edu. This website hosts all previous meeting materials and minutes along with the calendar for the remainder of the year. Additionally, users can find information on the 2019 Fall Listening Sessions as well as the 2020 Summit on Safety and Belonging. Individuals can also submit an anonymous feedback form which will be directed to the Commission co-chairs for consideration and response.

Michelle Brownstein Horowitz, Campus Director for UNC Hillel, presented to the Commission her concerns regarding the increased discrimination that Jewish students are facing on UNC-CH's campus. Brownstein Horowitz noted an uptick in anti-Semitism and hate speech on campus, primarily directed towards Jewish and pro-Israel students that has led to prospective students expressing concern that they will not feel safe on UNC-CH's campus. Several of the most notable concerns involve specific instances of student activism that have crossed the line into anti-Semitism and how our institutional policies are equipped to handle these and determine what actions are condoned.

To Brownstein Horowitz's point, Commission member Maya Weinstein expressed that it is important to note that discrimination against Jewish students takes place every day through stereotypes, stigmatism, and anti-Semitic "jokes". Weinstein also stressed the importance of considering these instances while not losing sight of the bigger picture, which is that major forms of discrimination and oppression are taking place throughout our university every day and must be addressed.

Commission member Eric Muller drew attention to the fact that there are varying forms and degrees of discrimination that occur on campus, but many of these occurrences should not be tolerated on any level. For example, Muller informed the Commission that several students were shamed by their peers and, as a result, turned down an educational opportunity to travel abroad and learn about the Israel-Palestine conflict. In any other context, Muller noted, creating a stigma such as this would be unheard of. Muller noted that there is a culture of doubt around students and faculty members who report experiences of exclusion stigmatization in anti-Semitic ways that would never be entertained if any other minority group on campus experienced a similar scenario.

The conversation then shifted to potential solutions that the Campus Safety Commission and administration might pursue, ranging from the establishment of an educational course to the establishment of a more specific policy that both defines anti-Semitism and explicitly condemns discrimination in the matter (with a greater specificity that is not currently reflected in the protected status category). Commission member Grossberg noted that the Commission and administration must take more seriously the challenges of people of color, nontraditional gender, and various ethnic groups. Commission member Brandon Washington expressed that, while some individuals feel comfortable reporting instances of discrimination to his office (EOC), not everyone is at this level on comfort. The Commission's goal, Washington stated, should be to work to make sure that everyone feels comfortable bringing things forward while using their discretion regarding whether they would like to be identified.

MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

On motion of Branny Vickory, and seconded by Eric Muller, the Commission voted to convene in closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 143-318.11 (a) (1) (to prevent the disclosure of privileged information under Section 126-22 and the following); and also pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a) (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), and (9).

RECONVENE MEETING IN OPEN SESSION

Chair Baumgartner made a motion to return to open session. Eric Muller seconded, and it passed.

UPDATES

The Commission thanked Kara Simmons, Office of University Counsel, for her willingness to inform the Commission regarding the North Carolina Human Resources Act and the legal considerations for launching a police advisory board

Chair DeVetta Holman informed the Commission that the presentation from Pre-Coalition Members on Gender Violence will be postponed until the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Baumgartner called for a motion to adjourn. Larry Grossberg made the motion; Eric Muller seconded, and it passed. Chair Baumgartner adjourned the meeting at 10:59 AM.

