
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Campus Safety Committee (CSC)

February 26, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[In these minutes: Discussion and Request for Feedback on the Campus Safety Committee's Definition of a Culture of Safety; Committee Business; Institute on Community Integration - Challenges Faced by the IDD Community; Safety, Disability, and Accessibility]

PRESENT: Edgar Arriaga (chair), Joseph Alf, Jovany Betancourt, Janelle Broesch, Clara Hanson, Jessica Larson, Jessica, LeBlanc, Adam Negri, Maja Radovanlija, Barry Standorf, liz thomson, Ian Tonks, Andrew Whitman

REGRETS: Rebecca Sedivy, Julie Thompson, Soyun Lee, Terry Niebeling

ABSENT: Joshua Ichen, Ashok Singh

GUESTS: Engie Hall, director, Disability Resources Center; Katrina Simons, community program specialist, Institute on Community Integration

OTHERS ATTENDING: Megan Sweet

1. Discussion and Request for Feedback on the Campus Safety Committee's Definition of a Culture of Safety

For the first part of this meeting, members of the Campus Safety Committee attended a meeting of the Equity, Access, and Diversity Committee (EAD) in order to conduct consultation on the definition of campus safety. Arriaga provided a presentation to EAD, and EAD members had the following comments and questions:

- Inquired about the role of the dean in implementing this definition? Arriaga emphasized that deans and department heads should promote and elevate the culture of safety by discussing it in meetings and sharing it with everyone.
- Raised the challenge of addressing safety for those not on campus, like nearby communities and visitors. Arriaga suggested these groups should be included in safety considerations and consulted.
- Pointed out that while the University can control campus safety, it cannot control safety issues arising from surrounding communities.
- Inquired as to how this initiative is different from other campus safety initiatives. Joe Alf clarified that the initiative is integrated with campus safety efforts and that the Office of

the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations was involved in its development. The initiative involves consulting with various groups and gathering feedback.

- Asked about comparisons with other universities. Arriga noted that urban campuses, including the Twin Cities campus, tend to have more safety incidents compared to non-urban campuses.
- Mentioned that while safety practices may vary regionally, the underlying mindset and values of the safety culture should be consistent across all campuses.

CSC members left the EAD meeting and continued the CSC meeting in a separate Zoom.

2. Committee Business

Arriaga Campus Safety Committee shared a number of emails that had been directed to the Campus Safety Committee regarding the safety alerts, as well as notes from the Strategic Safety Advisory Committee (SSAC) meeting.

3. Institute on Community Integration - Challenges Faced by the IDD Community

Katrina Simons, community program specialist, Institute on Community Integration, discussed the difficulties encountered by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) at the University. She provided the following information:

- The Self Advocacy Action Committee consists of people living with IDD who meet monthly to review and critique campus work related to their community.
- Safety is a relatively new concept for many in the IDD community, who were historically excluded from living in community settings.
- Financial constraints are a significant obstacle.
- IDD individuals may face bullying and harassment, with limited advocacy support if their safety is compromised.

Jovany Betancourt inquired about administrative challenges faced by Simons' office. She named the high cost of necessary support services as the biggest challenge.

4. Safety, Disability, and Accessibility

Next, Enjie Hall, director, Twin Cities Disability Resources Center (DRC) provided insights about the safety needs and priorities of those people served by the DRC. She emphasized looking at accommodations and accessibility from a systemic perspective.

Core Principles:

- Accessibility should be a fundamental aspect of daily work, with a focus on diversity, inclusion, justice, and belonging.
- Mental and physical health can fluctuate, and anyone may become part of the disability community at any time.
- It is important to recognize the impact of chronic health conditions.

Inclusive Practices:

- It is important to recognize the impact of sensory, mobility, mental illness, and chronic health conditions. Consider that safety may mean communication looks different for autistic persons.
- Adhering to the code of conduct is crucial for maintaining safety in digital and physical

spaces.

- Psychological safety is just as important as physical safety.

Alf inquired about the coordination between the DRC, University Health Services (UHS), and accessibility codes. Hall noted that compliance codes often represent the minimum standard and may not be fully inclusive of everyone's needs.

Hearing no further business, Arriaga thanked committee members and guests and adjourned the meeting.

Geanette Poole
University Senate Office