
The University Senate

FACULTY • STUDENT • P&A • CIVIL SERVICE

Campus Safety Committee (CSC)

Monday, April 15, 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: Welcome and Safety Moment; Discussion and Vote on Revisions to Culture of Campus Safety Definition; Policy Discussion; SSAC Update; Safety Updates; Thank you]

PRESENT: Edgar Arriaga (chair), Joseph Alf, Matt Blair, Janelle Broesch, Tina Erazmus, Clara Hanson, Jess Larson, Jessica LeBlanc, Tim LeGarde, Adam Negri, Terry Niebeling, Barry Standorf, Ian Tonks, liz thomson, Andy Whitman

REGRETS: Christopher Ehrhart, Sean Huls, Julie Thompson

ABSENT: Jovany Betancourt, Josh Ichen, Soyen Lee, Rebecca Sedivy, Ashok Singh, Maja Radovanlija

GUESTS: (none)

1. Welcome and [Safety Moment](#)

Professor Edgar Arriaga, chair, welcomed members to the meeting and started with a "safety moment." This segment aimed to explore the distinction between comfort and safety, drawing on recent discussions and literature. Arriaga referenced the book *The Coddling of the American Mind* and highlighted its examination of evolving higher education cultures.

Key topics included:

- The importance of distinguishing between discomfort and genuine safety concerns.
- Practices such as trigger warnings, safe spaces, speech codes, and monitoring microaggressions foster a supportive educational environment.

The committee discussion emphasized how these practices can be beneficial and relevant to the University of Minnesota's approach to campus safety and culture.

2. Discussion and Vote on Revisions to the Culture of Campus Safety Definition ([current draft](#))

Arriaga led the committee in a discussion regarding The Culture of Campus Safety Definition, and advised the following:

- The committee is to decide if the revised definition is ready for approval.
- If approved, it will be forwarded to the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC), and then to the Senate for discussion and voting.
- If not approved, further revisions will be needed in the 2024-2025.
- The timeline includes the Senate Consultative Committee reviewing the definition the following week and the Senate voting before the end of April.
- The Office of General Counsel (OGC) highlighted concerns regarding how the safety definitions and structure align with existing university policies.

Revision considerations:

- Add a broad statement at the beginning of the safety definitions indicating that all definitions will align with relevant university policies.
- Include references to specific university policies next to corresponding definitions where applicable.
- Remove the definition and structure sections for now and submit only the vision, mission, and values.
- A broad compliance statement could clarify that the definitions align with existing policies without getting into specifics.
- Connecting definitions to relevant policies might provide clarity but could be complex to draft.
- Holding off on the definition and structure sections might simplify the approval process and avoid potential issues.

Next Steps: The committee will continue to discuss these options and gather more feedback to decide on the best approach for integrating the input from the OGC as well as the following items:

- The small group working on the definition received feedback from the OGC, which was reviewed during the meeting.
- Clarification was given that the SCC will vote on whether the definition should be added to the Senate docket, not on the definition itself.

3. Policy Discussion: [Getting Access to University Buildings](#)

Janelle Broesch, assistant vice president and assistant chief operating officer, Office of the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations and Jessica LeBlanc, assistant to the senior vice president, Office of the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations reviewed the policy with the committee. They noted that the building access policy has not changed significantly

from previous discussions. New definitions have been added, but the core issues remain the same.

Key discussion topics included:

- Impact of the policy on individuals locked out due to weather.
- Setting and managing public, university, and restricted hours.
- Access issues for visitors to different campuses and how to request access.
- The Senior Vice President's office is leading the review.
- Currently, feedback is being gathered in a preliminary phase through this committee. Formal consultations will begin in the fall.
- The committee will review previously collected feedback and receive a revised version of the policy in the fall for further input.

4. The Strategic Safety Advisory Committee (SSAC) Update

Joe Alf, CSC member and incoming chair, gave the following update from the most recent SSAC meeting:

- No decisions have been made yet on classroom locking systems and best practices.
- President Ettinger is working with the Department of Public Safety to minimize disruptions to graduation ceremonies. Strategies and mitigation plans are being developed for possible disruptions.
- The local police are increasing their presence in Dinkytown, raising the number of officers from four to eight on weekends. They are also focusing on increasing foot patrols. Recent efforts by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office led to several arrests of violent offenders. Additionally, more lighting has been installed in poorly lit areas, which has been positively received by Greek organizations.
- Negotiations are underway to use the old Kitty Kat Club as a new off-campus safety base. Renovations are expected to be extensive.
- The mutual aid program with Minneapolis is reported to be running well.
- The Greek Council and potentially the Student Senate are conducting safety surveys, which could provide valuable data for future actions. There will also be a campus climate survey on safety across all campuses.

5. Safety Updates from System Campuses

Matt Blair, lead public safety officer, provided the following update on the Crookston campus:

- The campus has moved Public Safety back into the residence halls, improving accessibility and community policing. This includes educational programming and increased engagement with residents.
- An interdisciplinary Wellness Care Team was established, including a full-time case manager and a director of diversity, equity, and belonging. This team focuses on well-being and early reporting of issues, resulting in a 239% increase in overall reporting

from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. This increase has been seen as positive, helping with early intervention and awareness of health and relationship issues.

Sean Huls, chief of police at UMD provided a [written statement](#) on the Duluth campus:

- The campus is installing electronic locks in buildings, a long-awaited initiative finally being implemented after 20 years of advocacy. The focus is now on less critical areas following installation in main buildings and housing.
- The campus recently hired two additional police officers, bringing their team to full strength with 12 sworn officers. This increase has enhanced their ability to engage in community-based initiatives and improve overall coverage.

liz thomson, interim associate vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion, provided an update on the Morris campus:

- Public Safety Engagement: There was an attempt to start a Public Safety Dialogue and Advisory Committee, but challenges included staffing issues and lack of formal structure. The goal is to re-engage in the future.
- There's a need for a student representative on the committee from Morris.
- Desire to address tensions between Public Safety and students and improve proactive measures.

Barry Standorf, director of facilities and operations, provided an update on the Rochester campus:

- Received system funding for new surveillance cameras and a local machine for footage review. Expanded UK card system to new and existing facilities for better access control.
- Emphasis on improving communication about campus safety roles and responsibilities, fostering a culture of safety, and encouraging everyone's involvement.

Tina Erazmus, director of local government and community relations, provided an update from University Relations:

- Noted progress in safety measures around the Dinkytown area and organizing safety meetings. Highlighted the importance of the Campus Safety Committee's role in advocating for safety and writing supportive letters to officials.
- Encouraged continued clear communication and specific actions to support campus safety initiatives, such as writing letters of support.

Janelle Broesch provided an update from Finance and Operations:

- Expressed thanks to Edgar for leadership and to the committee for their dedication to campus safety.

6. Thank You Outgoing Members, Welcome New Chair

The end of the meeting focused on reflecting on past successes, acknowledging contributions, and setting the stage for future improvements under new leadership. The following information and thoughts were shared:

- There were expressions of gratitude for Edgar's leadership, particularly his work on safety issues and efforts to elevate committee concerns.
- The importance of taking action and improving how the committee communicates its work back to various groups was touched upon.
- The need to ensure that the committee's work benefits all campuses and fosters a culture of safety was highlighted.
- Joe Alf was introduced as the new chair of the Campus Safety Committee. He expressed his commitment to continuing the committee's work and sought input on how to improve engagement and impact. He outlined his plans to connect with committee members, gather their experiences, and develop strategies for meaningful impact on campus safety.

Jaelyn Adair

University Senate Office