



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of November 4, 2021
Murdock Hall, Room 208
Tele/Video Conference**

Members in Attendance

JD Chesloff, Chair*
Mohan Boodram, Board Chair
Edgar Perez

Members Absent

Kathleen Therrien

*Denotes remote participation

Others in Attendance

James F. Birge, President
Lisa Lescarbeau, Board Clerk
Jeannette Smith, Vice President of Student Affairs
Christopher MacDonald-Dennis, Chief Diversity Officer
Daniel Colonno, Chief of Campus Police
Kennedy Sobon, Student

Trustee Chesloff called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Student Kennedy Sobon, President of the Senior Class provided an overview of the newly formed Counseling Service Student Advisory Board, which will offer peer support to assist with counseling services. It is intended to provide a safe space for students to share their emotions and experiences prior to speaking with a counselor and in the event that an appointment may not be immediately available with counseling services. Members of this board, who are all psychology majors, are in the training process with Heidi Reillo in Counseling Services and anticipate being operational in Spring 2022. Training consists of six modules, three being conducted this semester and three in the next semester.

Greek life on campus was discussed. A subcommittee of the College's Student Affairs Committee will be charged with establishing a committee to examine Greek life on campus. This subcommittee will evaluate ability and capacity to provide Greek Life on campus. They will be asked to consider current trends, what is taking place on campus now as well as past events, and research nationally the trends for Greek life. Staffing, proposed models and capacity to host a robust Greek life program will be part of the work required of this subcommittee, with findings anticipated in Spring 2022.

The meeting was temporarily interrupted due to a network drop at 2:55 p.m. and resumed at 2:57 p.m.

Dr. MacDonald-Dennis joined the meeting at 2:58 p.m. and provided an overview of the College's Day of Dialogue and Racial Equity and Justice Initiative (REJI) work on campus. The Day of Dialogue was well attended and continues to feel like an integral part of campus. Work with REJI included participation in focus groups with other CDOs, CFOs and consultants. Equity audits will be considered as part of the REJI work to be done on campus. The findings of these audits will provide data to address equity issues and determine actionable items.

With regard to measurable actions around culture change and increasing diversity, President Birge commented on the number of changes that are quantifiable. Faculty are more involved in selecting speakers who represent more diverse and inclusive populations. Faculty searches are more deliberate in efforts in considering diversity beyond what would be considered more typical, for example research work being done on gender norms. More inclusive pedagogy is seen across campus, as is a focus on dialogue across differences.

Chief Daniel Colonno presented the College's annual Clery Report (2021 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report) for reporting year 2020 noting that the full report is available at the College's website and was provided to the College community on October 1, 2021. He provided a summary of the reporting requirements and the Clery Act for disclosure of campus security policy and campus crime statistics.

In 2020, there were two reports of sex offenses – forcible, rape, fondling; one report of dating violence, and one report of stalking in the criminal offenses – on campus category. These numbers are the same for the criminal offenses – on-campus, residence halls category and are not cumulative.

There were no arrests on campus, two illegal weapons violations, three drug law violations and 21 liquor-law violations. There were no fires in any of the College's three residential areas and each had two fire drills.

In response to questions regarding drug violations reporting, Chief Colonno stated that these calls were initially for medical assistance or based on residential room inspections.

In response to a question regarding the use of pepper spray on campus, Chief Colonno stated that allowing students to carry pepper spray is a conversation outside the purview of public safety. He

explained that, while it is lawful to use pepper spray for protection, it becomes illegal if the use is determined to be unlawful, at which point pepper spray is viewed as a weapon.

VP Smith further noted that this issue is being discussed by Student Government Association with a possible question to be placed on the student ballot in Spring 2022.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.