

Senate FSST Committee  
2/15/12

Members Present: Jane Fitzgibbon, Brian Madigan, Jennifer Sheridan Moss, Lee Wurm, Victoria Dallas (PC Liaison), Joseph Sawasky (Admin Liaison), Tamara Bray, T.R. Reddy, Jeffrey Withey, Seymour Wolfson

Members Absent with Notice: Debra Patterson, Judith Whittum-Hudson, Sachin Gandhi (Student Rep.)

Members Absent without Notice: Kafi Kumasi, Bryan Morrow, Daniel Rappolee, Daniel Golodner (AAUP-AFT Rep.)

Guests: Chief Anthony Holt,; Michael Wright, Lisa Shrader (COS office)

The meeting was called to order at 2 PM.

I. Approval of minutes from 12/7/11

II. Introductions

III. Report on Emergency Planning and Preparedness (Holt, Wright, Shrader)

- The Crisis Management Team, whose duties range from crises of public safety to reputational management, has, in the past, met quarterly. The Team now is meeting in smaller subgroups more often, and walks through various crisis scenarios. Public Safety also does disaster drills in cooperation with other agencies such as the FBI and the City of Detroit. Wright acknowledged that the team needs to communicate its role and activities to the campus community in a more effective manner. Several suggestions were made to this end.
- The Crisis Management Team recognizes the problems caused by ongoing power outages in buildings on campus; President Gilmour has prioritized moving the campus off the Detroit power grid as soon as it is feasible. Because power outages are often short in duration, the administration is hesitant to cancel classes or shut down the university unless they have confirmation that the power outage will last. Chief Holt emphasized that Public Safety is prepared to evacuate people who are stuck in buildings with no power, or to rescue people from elevators. The Crisis Team and committee members discussed the possibility of merging information systems so that Public Safety could know the location of individuals with limited mobility whenever there is a power outage. The committee made clear that more information needs to be shared during power outages, even if the university does not expect to close.

- The committee inquired about the University's planning for potential cutbacks in public safety if there are further budget crises in Detroit. Chief Holt said that there have already been severe reductions in force, and that WSUPS has increased their patrols to compensate. The city already has insufficient EMS service, but WSU calls a private company if necessary. There are ongoing discussions of plans to deal with cutbacks in snow removal and fire protection.
- There was a discussion of pedestrian safety near Scott Hall. Public Safety will post an officer there during peak hours, and investigate other ways to increase safety at this busy crossing. There is also a problem with pedestrian safety near the entrance to parking lot 51; Public Safety will consider installing a mirror to allow drivers to see pedestrians as they exit from the lot. Public Safety will also investigate the fire exits in the Macabees Building, as some members reported that they are blocked.
- Public Safety is available to discuss crime prevention with departments.

ADDENDUM: Following on a discussion of dealing with students in crisis, Joe Sawasky has updated the WSU phone app to include "student crisis" emergency number.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Sheridan Moss, Chair