Minutes of the Villanova University Police Oversight Committee

A meeting of the Villanova University Police Oversight Committee was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Davis Center conference room.

Members Present:
Rev. Rob Hagan, O.S.A., Associate Athletic Director, CHAIR
John Cosenza, Alumnus and Retired Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Criminal Branch of the FBI in Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Brighid Dwyer, PhD, Director, Program and Intergroup Relations
Timothy Horner, D Phil, Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Education
Crystal Lucky, PhD, Associate Professor, English and Director of Africana Studies Program
Ariel Thompson, Chemical Engineering Student, Class of 2018
Catherine Warrick, PhD, Associate Professor, Political Science

Also Present (Ex Officio):
David Tedjeske, Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police
E. Michael Zubey, Jr., Associate General Counsel

The meeting began with introductions and a prayer by Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A.

Public Safety Update
Mr. David Tedjeske, Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police, provided the Committee with a Public Safety update. Mr. Tedjeske stated that since August 1, 2016, there have been eight criminal charges, all were students and none were taken into custody. He also stated in the 2015 calendar year there were 13 liquor law arrests and in 2014 there were 31. Thus, the numbers have been decreasing. Mr. Tedjeske noted that with the armed Police transition, Villanova has developed close relationships with the Philadelphia FBI and the Delaware County criminal investigators. Mr. Tedjeske noted the following events in which Public Safety participated in efforts to strengthen its relationship with the campus community: orientation; activities fair; parents resource fair; international student orientation; black cultural society event “Real Talk” (a dinner dialogue take place later this month); leadership meetings with RAs, CAP and SG; Villanovan article in which three officers participated; and two self-defense classes provided for students. Mr. Tedjeske also noted that Public Safety is marketing the Nova Safe App and a video explaining it is available on the Public Safety website. The App maintains a safety feature “friend watch” where students can add up to three contacts who can look up the student’s location. The App also allows students to test Public Safety, track the campus shuttle and submit an anonymous tip to Public Safety.

There was one complaint noted since the Committee’s last meeting involving a student registering voters on campus who refused to comply with the Public Safety officer’s request to see the student’s I.D. The issue is under investigation and it does not involve an armed Police officer.
**Community Concerns/Recommendations/Suggestions**

Some student concerns include: (1) Do students have any alternatives after making a complaint about Police officers. (2) Will students be able to meet with the Public Safety officer in lieu of formal action? (3) If so, will there be a liaison available to students?

Mr. Tedjeske and Michael Zubey, Associate General Counsel, responded to the concerns. Mr. Tedjeske stated that the final decision on all complaints is determined by him and there are no appeals. He also noted that there are departmental policies for complaints and the mediation question raised by students may be covered in those policies and procedures. Mr. Tedjeske noted that if mediation were to be offered, the admission of students into the process would have to be carefully managed. It was also discussed that the role of the Committee is not to adjudicate matters, but rather act as a liaison between the community and Public Safety.

**Member Suggestions**

It was suggested that the Committee should initially address one or two Committee items. Programs may include students attending newly hired officers’ in-service training, student and Public Safety officers’ luncheons and scheduling an annual open public forum.

**Upcoming Meeting**

The November 2016 meeting is rescheduled for November 9, 2016
December meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Both meetings will be in held in the Davis Center conference room at 9:00 a.m.