

## **Police Oversight Committee meeting, 4 October 2017**

The committee discussed the definition and identification of hate crimes, in relation to incidents that have happened and might in future happen at Villanova. Michael Zubey, assistant general counsel, explained that Pennsylvania has no provision regarding hate crimes in the criminal code but does define “bias incidents” as elements of other crimes, which can result in enhanced sentencing upon conviction. Currently the definition of a “bias incident” includes race but not gender or sexual orientation. Hate crimes as defined in federal law must involve a threat of injury to a person of a protection classification (such as race) based on use of a firearm, explosive, or arson. There is also a definition of hate crimes in the Violence Against Women Act, which is used to classify crimes for purposes of reporting. Thus incidents of bias on campus may not be hate crimes within the meaning of state or federal law (but would still warrant the attention of Public Safety and other campus resources).

The committee also inquired about the procedures if ICE came to campus for immigration-related arrests or investigations. The committee was told that the university would not assist ICE with information except by court order and would not be involved in arrests. There have been cases where Radnor police have sought to execute a (non-immigration-related) warrant on campus, and in such cases the officers are asked to wait at Public Safety while Villanova Public Safety officers find the person in question, to avoid Radnor or other agencies’ officers disrupting classrooms or other spaces on campus.

In relation to recent events on other campuses, committee members discussed the issue of use-of-force guidelines for Villanova police officers. (Public Safety Director David Tedjeske was not present as he was traveling on business.) Committee members agreed that further information about de-escalation training would be useful and that it might be valuable to study comparative training models for de-escalation techniques, particularly those used by unarmed police forces elsewhere. Committee members will research this and discuss further at our next meeting.

Submitted by Catherine Warrick