Minutes of the Villanova University Police Oversight Committee

A meeting of the Villanova University Police Oversight Committee (Committee) was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 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 on Intergroup Relations
Timothy Horner, D Phil, Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Education
Crystal Lucky, PhD, Associate Professor, English and Director of Africana Studies Program
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 an opening prayer by Fr. Rob Hagan, O.S.A.

Public Safety Update and Outreach
Rev. Rob Hagan, O.S.A. provided the Committee with a Public Safety update on behalf of David Tedjeske. Since the September 2017 meeting, there were no arrests or incidents of force. By way of outreach, Public Safety held three Dinner Dialogues over the past month as well as several ice cream truck events. The Committee recommended that all Officers in Public Safety receive de-escalation training. Dr. Warrick offered to research law enforcement agencies that offer this type of training.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
A discussion occurred regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and how Public Safety would handle situations involving ICE. It was noted that the University cannot prevent ICE from coming to Villanova’s campus, but if ICE were attempting to acquire information, the University would not offer help. ICE would not be required to contact Public Safety regarding an arrest or search warrant. However, it is more likely that ICE would contact the General Counsel’s Office or Registrar’s Office and these offices would contact Public Safety.

Pennsylvania Law Discussion
The Committee discussed Pennsylvania law and the definitions of hate crimes. At the State level, there is nothing defined as a “hate crime”. The State utilizes the term “bias incidents” which are limited to race. At the Federal level, the term “hate crimes” is defined in the Hate Crimes Act and covers race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability. The Clery Act contains a broad definition, but is only used for tracking reportable crimes under the Act. It is not a separate crime.
Upcoming Meeting
The next Police Oversight Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Davis Center Conference Room.