

Chief's Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes September 11, 2020

Present:

Chief Aguirre, Calli Chiu, Christine Gardiner, Tina Thomas, Tonantzin Oseguera, Chris Brown, Marcus Reveles, LaTosha Traylor, Susan Uyemura

Absent:

Matt Verhulst

Discussion:

The Chief apologized for cancelling the 2 hour meeting, but thought it was important to have another introductory meeting since there are new members. After today can proceed with first official Board meeting. Chief would like to meet for first official meeting before end of month and then from there do it quarterly, that way will be able to get 3 meetings in before end of school year. Chief had everyone introduce themselves.

Tonantzin Oseguera – Vice President for Student Affairs

Tina Thomas – ASI Board of Directors

Susan Uyemura – Representing Staff - CSUEU

LaTosha Traylor – Professor of Sociology

Chris Brown – Professor of Criminal Justice

Calli Chui – Assistant Professor Special Ed Department

Marcus Reveles – ASI President

Christine Gardiner – Professor of Criminal Justice

Chief Aguirre: Thanked everyone for being at the meeting and for everyone's support. Chief was made aware after his meeting with CAL State Chiefs this week, that CSUF is first campus to have an Advisory Board up and running. The Chief will send out the By Laws, Charge of Board and Confidentiality form within the week. Since there may be things discussed that could be confidential or possibly personnel related, each Board member will need to sign the confidentiality form and return it. The Chief will also share demographic data on who was arrested, etc., and the Board will be able to look at underlying factors for the arrest. Chief Aguirre wants this to be a transparent group, even if doesn't bode well for UPD. Chief will look at and review all recommendations from the Board.

If the Board is meeting 3 or 4 times during the year, the Chief would like the Board to complete a year end document, which will cover what has been discussed, recommendations, and what has or has not been implemented. Chief will make this document available to the public. Some topics the Board might consider looking at and discussing are, quality of life issues, various programs, look at historical role of UPD and why it exists and how it will develop in the next 5 – 10 years. Possibly put out a comprehensive plan to address reform demands, and also work on reaching out to the community more to have a higher level of understanding from them.

Professor Brown: Pointed out CFA and SQE are demanding is to defund the University Police. Greg wants to be able to address this issue, i.e. the elephant in the room. Chief agrees this is a prevailing concern and said this may be the starting point for the first “official” Board meeting.

Chief Aguirre: Chief discussed policies and how CSU PDs are in the process of having system wide policies with Lexipol. Currently policies are standalone from other campuses, but this change to standardize policies across all University campuses should be completed within the year. Problem CSUF had is they are accredited by CALEA and their standards are different than the system wide format, but Chief and staff are working on fixing this issue. CALEA accreditation completed recently and CSUF PD was awarded it again. Chief states the importance of having a 2 hour meeting by the end of September. Chief asks someone to volunteer to be the Chair and Co-Chair. Calli volunteers to be the Chair and Marcus volunteers for Co-Chair. Chief would like the first topic of discussion to be the defund police movement and the many implications of that movement. Obviously, first question will be what is meant by defund the Police. Is it taking responsibilities such as mental health and homelessness issues away from the Police and giving to others to deal with? Chief said if idea is to have mental health professionals/social workers respond to certain types of calls, there still may be a need for an officer to be there also. A lot of these changes will take money and political involvement. If the goal is to completely abolish the University Police Department so it no longer exists, than the Chief brought up different questions, how realistic is that, what are the options that are available instead of current way of Law Enforcement, United Kingdom model, Japanese model? Chief believes law enforcement has been shaped by what has gone on in last 50 years.

Vice President Oseguera: Suggested Board should ask about defunding and discuss the difference between University police and municipal police. VP Oseguera brought up the fact that these groups might want to think about how defunding the University police is the same as letting go of University employees. Also, what are the consequences for the University, instead of calling the University’s Police Department, they will have to rely on Fullerton Police Department. VP Oseguera stated she use to work with PERT and the Police Department to respond to mental illness calls, etc. VP Oseguera wants more information on what these groups mean when they say “defund the Police Department,” and wants to look at various practices, options, since these might be more appropriate for City Police.

Assistant Professor Chiu: AP Chui asks Chris Brown for the document from the CFA regarding defunding the University Police. Chris said he would find it and forward it to her.

Professor Gardiner: Requested/offered to use some of her students to assist / gauge a sense of the communities understanding of what defunding the police actually means.

Chief Aguirre: Talked about his experience in municipal policing and University policing and explained that some of the callousness/rudeness Police come that sometimes comes isn’t because the officers are jerks, but more likely it comes from the stress of so many deadlines, performance expectations, etc. These factors combined with the number of calls for service per shift, make it difficult for municipal police to engage with the victim, reporting party,

etc. University Police on the other hand, are in a unique position where they do have time to engage with their community on a daily basis.

Professor Traylor: Agreed with VP Oseguera's earlier statement regarding the importance of distinguishing University Police from municipal Police. She also sees a lack of caring in many of these interactions and feels it would be beneficial to everyone to find a way to come across different in these interactions.

ASI President Reveled: Agreed there are situations where officers with a lot of calls lack the ability to engage, and he agrees this needs to change for trust to be built.

Chief Aguirre: Chief stated University Police are not too busy to engage with the community and the opportunity for engagement is there. This is where the Chief is concentrating his efforts and agreed with LaTosha this needs to be addressed. From a historical perspective, the University police and Transit police officers, and others that work in specialized environments where law enforcement has to be conducted differently. But officers all begin with the same training at the academy. A lot of the original training a police officer receives stays with them no matter what environment they are hired into. Most officers that work in specialized environments succeed as they know they have to adjust their thinking to the environment they are working in. Problems arise when those officers can't adjust to the environment they work in. Most of the time University Police respond to calls that are non-violent. Rarely does it involve physical contact. The challenge for the officer is that "switch." The officer has to mentally prepare when a call goes out for someone with a weapon on campus, this is where the officer has to change from community engager to law enforcement officer. The Chief acknowledged that the UPD has some officers that walk around acting like they are high and mighty. The Chief has had conversations with these officers and has stressed to them how important it is to understand the few extra minutes they spend with the campus community goes a long way.

Assistant Professor Chiu: Asked if the Department has lost any officers due to the campus going virtual, and if there is any information on hiring or citizen complaints in the policies.

Chief: The UPD has lost 2 officers so far and will be losing another to a municipality. Officers leave mainly for pay, because the difference in wages between University and municipalities is substantial. Officers also leave because they want to experience more activity. Chief explained the hiring standards for police officers are governed by POST requirements and there are also policies that must be followed for complaints. Chief explains one of the challenges that occur when hiring police officers is it is a long process, the written and oral test, background investigation, polygraph, psych test, medical exam. There may be a candidate that did well in the written and oral, but gets disqualified in the background or in the psych, etc.

Professor Brown: Asked if the two open Corporal positions will be filled.

Chief: No, two Corporal positions will remain empty, the Captain position will not be filled either. There are presently 5 vacant officer positions. Chief thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting and states a calendar invite for the next meeting will be sent out.

Meeting adjourned.