



San Diego Community College District

City College · Mesa College · Miramar College · College of Continuing Education

College Police Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for October 3, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 pm, Zoom

Committee Members Present: Joel Peterson, Jack Beresford, Steve Major, Kimberly Palek, Majeda Nasrawi, Anna Liza Manzo, Trenton Romero, Jazz Koehler, Xtopher Ruiz, Joseph Ramos, Nancy Schumaker, Patrick Velasquez, Jared Burns

Committee Members Absent: John Parker, Nadia Sayeh, Darius Spearman, Angel Wilson, Alex Acevedo, Zora Williams, Haydee Zuniga

Guest Attendees: Valerie Pallares-Herrera

Meeting commenced at 2:00 pm by Jack Beresford (Proxy for Co-Chairs Parker and Sayeh)

Valerie Pallares-Herrera was introduced as Mesa College faculty awaiting Academic Senate appointment. Jared Burns, Vice Chancellor of People, Culture and Technology Services, was introduced.

Jack asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Majeda motioned to approve and Kim seconded.

Jack asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 3, 2024, Nancy motioned to approve and Steve seconded.

The meeting frequency was discussed. PAC bylaws state that the committee will meet at least once per quarter but may decide by majority vote to meet more frequently; the PAC currently has identified and scheduled a standing monthly meeting. There is concern that if the committee only meets every three (3) months, there would be too many agenda items to address in a one-hour meeting. The PAC will decide the meeting frequency by majority vote during the November meeting.

Nominations for committee officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) were shared and outlined below. Community/citizen-at-large members have not been nominated to date to fill the existing vacancy. Nancy wishes to continue another two-year term. Patrick announced that he would like to step down, but is willing to continue serving another term until a replacement from the Chicano community can be identified. It was announced that Aimee Gallagher contributed to this committee while she was in an acting H.R. role but will no longer be participating; VC Burns will now be attending regularly. The attendees present agreed to receive nominations through the day of the elections on November 7th.

Officer Nominations presented:

Chair

John Parker

Jazz Koehler

Vice-Chair

Jazz Koehler

Xtopher Ruiz

Jack Beresford

Chief Ramos shared updates on notable police investigations, incident calls and trainings. During the month of September, the police department received 776 calls for service to the communication center

and engaged in 1,706 officer initiated activities. Officers conducted 1,286 security checks (201 intrusion alarms). They assisted with 66 staff and student assists including escorts, doors, vehicle assistance, and 10 classroom call box responses. They conducted 72 crime and or arrest reports including 9 misdemeanors, 4 felonies, 15 citations, and facilitated 3 protective custody for mental health evaluations. Noteworthy incidents included an attempted equipment burglary at City College and a response to a lewd act being committed inside an ECC office that resulted in an arrest. Campus involvement included recent ALICE trainings for employees at Mesa and City. Notable trainings for the police department included an advanced Search and Seizure Training; advanced training for sexual assault investigations; some officers attended Bike Officer Academy; and one officer is completing a mandated Law Enforcement Management Course. He addressed a recent public incident and conveyed that the district's formal public comment will be forthcoming.

Students inquired about participating in trainings with College Police and Chief Ramos indicated that some of the trainings are provided only to district employees due to liability during the trainings. He offered to discuss training options with the trainers to see can be available to students and/or classes as the department would like to continue building on a positive relationship with students. VC Peterson also suggested checking with the appropriate Deans of Student Services to confirm what training components are permissible with regard to students.

VC Peterson began the continued conversation regarding Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs). He shared that if SDCCD officers have the ability to use a less lethal option it could reduce the likeliness of a tragic event potentially resulting in court processes and holding the district liable for not adhering to standard practices deemed normal throughout law enforcement agencies within our local environment. He expressed that this committee has been in prudent discussions on these devices for over two years and that the SDCCD leadership is interested in receiving the position of the Policy Advisory Committee in the upcoming weeks or months.

VC Peterson was asked if the district owns CEDs and he clarified that there were devices purchased prior to his employment in 2022 but there was no standard operating procedure or board to oversee the implementation of the devices. The previous Chancellor at that time recommended constituting this committee to provide feedback but due to the length of the committee's review process the devices in SDCCD PD possession are now obsolete, out of calibration, and cannot be deployed.

VC Peterson was asked if the district has its own legal counsel and if the information articulated came from this legal counsel. He confirmed that the district does have in-house general counsel and over the past two and a half years, the district consulted with many law firms of various expertise along with its counsel in regards to legal liability. The consensus is that the district would likely have significant ongoing legal liability without having the devices. He shared that he is responsible for the risk management, and the occupational safety and health of all district employees and students. He is on the board of the Statewide Association of Community Colleges, which is a joint powers authority of shared pooled risk of statewide community college districts where we self-insure because insurance companies will not insure

schools and districts for many things like liability and property damage. In researching with the risk management and third party experts, they reviewed settlements, how juries awarded findings, monetary awards and how court findings were conducted in situations that would be significant risks. VC Peterson was asked if the district has any written legal opinion and he confirmed there is. The district's prior risk manager provided an official opinion letter stating that having consulted with the various parties this was a significant risk; and the district has something similar from legal counsel. VC Peterson will locate and share the written opinions with this committee.

Committee discussion included student support of the less-lethal devices and the importance of our police force having them available to protect themselves and the public at large; consideration that some officers may use the devices without safety consideration of the people being tased; the importance of equipment and officer trainings; and the district's legal counsel in regards to liability. VC Peterson appreciated the discussion today and concluded with ensuring all voices of this committee are heard prior to moving forward with any next steps.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm