

CSULB Community Engagement Group Meeting – May 17, 2021  
Started 2:03 pm

Attendee's: President Jane Conoley Vice President Scott Apel, Chief Fernando Solorzano, Dr. Neal Schnoor, Dr. Jessica Pandya, Michele Dobson, Omar Prudencio-Gonzalez, Larisa Hamada, Citlalli Ortiz, Ann Kinsey, AVP Dr. John Hamilton, Dr. Michael Barraza, Dr. Nicholas Perez.

President Conoley:

- Thanked the committee members for participating.
- We want the campus community to feel that while they are here, we can influence and control to a certain amount the concerns of physical safety or harassment. Police play a role in that.
- We have a lot to be proud of but we are also committed to continuous improvement.
- We promise complete transparency and support of this program.
- We need your suggestions on community policing. The advice will turn into change.
- One weakness that was identified a year ago is there was no regular communication system with the diverse groups across the campus. She see's engagement board as part of the improvement for that.

VP Administration & Finance Scott Apel:

- He wants the group to be active participants to help bridge the police and the greater community.
- The Chief will report back to him and Jane the issues discussed.
- The group can help in getting the greater campus community to get to know our officers. The officers also need to get to know the people on campus. The police are here to help the students make good decisions and to stay out of trouble.

Chief Solorzano:

- Introductions
- Michael Barraza, Associate Director of CAPS/Director of Veterans Services  
Attended CSULB as student, worked as staff psychologist for CAPS for approximately 3 yrs., worked for LA County Dept. of Mental health.
- Ann Kinsey, Staff Member/Academic Senate Assistant  
Interested in being part of group because she comes from a police family, supports police but horrified with recent events, she would like to give input to this group.
- John Hamilton, Associate VP University Access and Retention  
Leads several departments from EOP to the Office of Multicultural Affairs, has been a part of community policing committees at UCLA as well as other Campuses, proud to serve on committee to help make connection.

- Nicholas Perez, Assistant Professor for the School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Emergency Management  
Teach policing, delinquency and crim theory classes, main area of research largely surround young people and police community relationships, currently serves on the LBPB Community Advisory Board.
- Citlalli Ortiz, Chief Diversity Officer for ASI  
Role ending May 31, 2021. She will be graduating with a Bachelor's in Communications studies and public relations.
- Jessica Pandya, Professor in the College of Education  
Role in the group is the Academic senate chair, here to learn and bring back information to share with the government body.
- Neal Schnoor, President Conoley's Chief of Staff  
Been on campus a couple of years.
- Michele Dobson, Attorney  
Graduated from CSULB with a degree in Political Science, started career as Orange County public defender.
- Larissa Hamada, Office of Equity and Diversity  
Works with UPD on Title 9 cases, behavioral intervention team and CARES,
- Omar Prudencio-Gonzalez, Outgoing ASI President  
He will graduate in a couple of weeks, served as a LAPD cadet and a co-chair for the community advisory board for the LAPD southwest division.
- Fernando Solorzano, Chief of Police  
Been at CSULB since 1987, started as a student assistance then became employee in 1990, Alumni of the FBI national academy.

#### Chief Solorzano (Agenda)

The group needs to assign a Chairperson. That person will task the Chief with the requested presentation or information.

Presentation that gives a history of the department. At the end of the presentation, the Chief will open the floor for questions and dialogue on what is presented discussed.

Presentation:

- Welcome and thank you for taking the time to participate.

- Our current staffing level is three officers on day and night shifts.
- One of the first pillars of community policing is building trust and legitimacy.
- Chief Solorzano would like to give more exposure to our police officers.
- In the beginning University Police Department (UPD) was recognized as a security department. We became recognized as a police department by the Commission of Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) on January 23, 1974.
- The early 90's the campus held a national search for a Chief and was able to bring someone aboard who had the background of University law enforcement.
- In the past UPD did not reflect the demographics of the institution. In 2005, Chief Pearson tasked then Lieutenant Solorzano with recruitment. He stated the best way to achieve community policing is for the department to reflect the community they serve.
- CSULB has had one officer involved shooting on December 5, 1981, close to 40 yrs ago. Students were playing in the area where the current music building is located. They were playing with rubber guns that were incredible replicas of real guns. The student that was shot recovered.
- When the demographics within the department changed our complaints decreased.
- When the pandemic took place and people started getting sick, UPD started to see an increase in the homeless population on campus. Police continued to make contact with them. One thing created as a means to address the population is a liaison, police officer who specializes with homeless people to try and get them help.
- Recent case: An officer made contact with a homeless person who was a student that graduated some previous years. Unfortunately, the guy had a drug problem and had lost his way. The officer spent some time with him and made contact with the young man's parents to let them know he was okay. The officer helped get the man enrolled in rehab where he was able to get cleaned up. A few months later the father called Chief Solorzano to say thank you to the police officer for helping his son. He was grateful the officer took the extra time, his son was cleaned up and he was back home.
- Instances like this help build repore with the community. At UPD we call it the "Guardian approach" versus "Warrior Approach". Instead of reacting to aggressiveness, officers use their skill set to deescalate, come to a better understanding to try to defuse a situation.
- Use of Force information: In 10 years, UPD had four use of force cases. (case 1) – Person being arrested and was put in Barn technic; (Case 2) – Tazer shown but never deployed; (Case 3) Suspect who fled and was tackled; (Case 4) – Officers tried to take mentally ill person to hospital for help when he began to be resistant.
- At times we have controversial speakers on campus and that can be a little difficult to some of our students. UPD get calls to have these people removed but it doesn't work that way. We currently have campus administrators who help UPD with letting students know they don't have to go past these people. We also created special barricades so that students wouldn't have to walk past the area.
- A key component of this group is to give guidance, suggestions and/or complaints to UPD. We would like to find solutions to make the department better.

### Community Outreach

- Rape, Aggression and Defense program (RAD) = provides alternatives for women if they are accosted. The program is to build self-confidence.
- Coffee with a cop
- Move in day with housing = The officers help the students move into the dorms.
- Emergency Preparedness Day = A huge day where UPD teams up with the community and we hand out information on home emergency kits and emergency protocols.
- Athletics and UPD unite for girls and boys club of Long Beach = Means to build relationship with the athletics. Athletics and UPD teamed up and painted the boys and girls club. The athletics get to see UPD officers out of uniform and personally learn about their lives.
- University 100 = No longer exist. It was one of the best ways to reach out to the transferred and freshman students. We now participate in the Parent Orientation Program (POP).
- Office hours with the Chief of Police = anyone can call and talk to the Chief or do a virtual presentation. The hours are Monday 12-1pm and Thursday 12-1pm.

The Chief believes it's important for the group to get to know UPD and what we are about. It would be good if members of the group would take some time and participate in a ride-a-long or spend some time in our dispatch center. The Chief suggested a possible open house so the group could come and see some of the men & women in the organization.

There's a strong narrative to defund the police. The Chief read the resolution from the Associated Students Inc., (ASI) and it was a little saddening. It opened his eyes that there are people who don't want the police around. He needs the committee to help get more exposure and to provide some of the positive about what UPD does.

### Questions from group?

Michelle Dobson - In addition to the traditional duties that we think about, what is UPD's responsibilities relative to the faculty and is there a separate unit that keeps the University assets and equipment. Is that under UPD or different?

Larissa Hamada response - That would be handled under Equity and Diversity. It would be covered under the whistle blower policy. They do investigations for improper use of government funds or resources. If the incident does not come in under the whistle blower policy, it would be handled through faculty affairs, human resources or student conduct. They get confidential/anonymous complaints about improper government activities which could include fraud, improper use of funding, inappropriate use of facilities, staffing being asked to do something illegal or inappropriate.

### Questions from the group?

Jessica Pandya - Her union has a defund the police call, obviously he's (the Chief) is not interested in that. How are you (the Chief) interacting with people who are asking for that?

Chief response - he wants to have dialogue or communicate about the defund the police call but he doesn't know how to go about doing it. Does he reach out to the CFA president about the subject or is it something he needs to share with his colleagues and have small group sessions? He would ask what are some alternatives, why is there such a strong push for this but he hasn't had the opportunity. Maybe this group can help him accomplish this.

Jessica Pandya - She can connect the Chief with the two CFA co-presidents, maybe one could sit on this board.

Citlalli Ortiz - Talk about the resolution, the call to defund the police and the interactions with police. Thank you for the presentation. In general, a lot of us haven't had great experiences with police officers and personally as a child she has been triggered by the police. Especially now she's understanding better about our police on campus and to feel more comfortable with that, however, it's not the same as being out on the street. It would be helpful to students to share the information we shared with the group today. The police should understand the student's points of views, understanding where they are coming from and why this started. Part of the resolution for ASI is to fund CAPS or mental health services. The wait is long and the services are not for the long run. The services are not sustainable which is why they are asking for more funds towards mental health. The first step in this process is speaking with the students, she can help connect the Chief with the students.

Michelle Dobson - Is there a plan to have a town hall where we invite people to tell us if we defund the University Police that is in exchange for what? She would love to have an open discussion on that with the community members that are interested.

- Chief Solorzano response - No planned town hall meeting. He did somewhat of a town hall with the BFSA and it was productive.
- Michelle - as a jumping off point for the group to sit and listen
- Consensus from group to pursue it
- Larissa - For state privacy reasons certain cases can't be opened but the community can still share what their experiences are with our University Police. There will be a certain set of expectations that have to be clarified so the community doesn't feel like we are covering up something. We can't give an entire case over to a community to read. We need to be transparent on what we can do and provide.

End of question/answer period.

Chief Solorzano

- Requested volunteer for Chair of group. The Chair will give the Chief task and he will respond to the Chair. The group should be leading the dialogue or discussion.
- John Hamilton volunteered to co-chair with a student.
- Group decided on quarterly meetings.
- Thank you for taking the time for this meeting.

Adjourned 3:04 pm