

GC Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/18/19

Location: Shaffer 3, Shaffer Hall

Minutes taken by: Eugenia Volkova, Secretary

Agenda:

1. Private Police Force (Q&A)
2. Approval of minutes
3. E-board Report
4. Funding Requests
5. GPSA Coordinator Elections
6. PATH update

Private Police Force (Q&A) (1 Hour):

Administration Attendees:

- Kevin Shollenberger, Vice Provost for Student Affairs
- Stephen Ruckman, Senior Adviser to the President for Policy
- Mary Clapsaddle, Director of State Affairs
- Chris Presberry, Executive Director of Campus Safety and Security
- Jarron Jackson, Acting Senior Director, Campus Safety and Security

Speech by Kevin Shollenberger:

- Update about the [Private Police Force] report that was sent out. Meetings and forums were held last semester. Ongoing development with the government and community regarding where we are in the legislative process and how we can get involved in the process. Representatives from campus safety and security regarding the legislation are present today.

Speech by Stephen Ruckman:

- The trends at Hopkins regarding crime are different than the surrounding area.
- Peer institutions have police forces.
- The research that exists: link between the introduction of police and the fall of violent crime.
- What does good public safety look like?
 - Goes beyond constitutional policing.
 - “You can be lawful but still awful”.
 - Rightful policing: goes above and beyond.
- Community engagement:
 - Range of opinions, but a shared concern for safety.
 - Greater desire for input on how public safety is shaped.
 - Continuing to take as much feedback as we can.
 - Strong calls in investments in the root causes of crime.
 - Training, public policies that are issues in this city
- Our primary public safety strategy must be investing in communities that we call home.

- Improved lighting, more transportation options, supporting local businesses, investing in local assets
- The security operation must be directed by rightful policing.
- We could hire private armed guards, but we don't think this is an accountable way of approaching the situation and has no accountability to the state whatsoever.
- We could try to work more closely with BPD through more formal arrangements. There are a number of reasons why this is not feasible. There are many trust issues with the BPD.

Questions on the report:

1. There was a lot added on accountability. Could you please discuss accountability boards?
 - a. Three accountability boards: Inside and outside the Hopkins community, at least 3 people from each campus that this policy would influence, also Maryland city council.
 - b. Any officer that has done something that is considered misconduct would ordinarily only be tried by a jury of peers, we are now allowed to have 2 additional people on this board.
 - c. Subjecting the JHU police force to the city review board.
2. Hopkins appoints a majority of the members, it does not account what neighborhoods account as being around Hopkins?
3. What do you make about the claim by ACLU that the BPD is toothless?
4. What is the mechanism for going back to the general assembly?
 - a. Part of the challenge of the civilian review board was the lack of cooperation between the BPD and the civilian review board. Under recent leadership, it has gotten stronger and we have had some public fights with the civilian review board. We feel that this will be better in the future.

Speech by Mary Clapsaddle:

- As to the appointment process of the CRB, we have had many discussions about how this would look. 2 of the appointees go to the mayor and to the council president. They must have a process for how they vet people, get nominations, and we could borrow a similar process both for the neighborhoods and for the student-faculty-staff groups. We talked for some time about having specifics about who would be included, but we don't want to exclude anyone from a specific group. We want to maintain a certain amount of flexibility about how this would work.
1. Can we undo this if it doesn't work?
 - a. There are many reporting requirements in the bill. If the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) gets a lot of negative reports, then next year they could repeal this bill. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BPD, they could choose not to sign next year. There are very many checks and balances built into the process.
 2. Part of the concern is that there would be a considerable gap between the rest of Baltimore and JHU. What do we say to civilian concerns about why does JHU get a good police force and the rest of the city does not?
 - a. Hopkins has a responsibility to its campus and the neighborhoods where people live and shop and eat. We could set up a police department that fits these criteria that could meet our requirements and we could share best practices with the BPD.

3. Where will we find this pool of officers if we want to be highly selective?
 - a. That is a fair question, we don't have a good answer for this. Part of what we can do are opportunities for training and the pipeline that we might be able to grow some of our own. We will not be impacting the universe of candidates that much. 500 personnel after 5 years.
 - b. Yes, they are working to improve but they have a bad reputation right now. Over time, we will have up to 100 people in this program. But there is no rush for this right now. We are nowhere close to those numbers.
4. You mentioned 100 officers, is that just in Baltimore or does it impact all campuses?
 - a. Our security operation is all over the state. But what we are talking about are officers for Homewood, East Baltimore, and Peabody. The 100 officers takes into account the command structure as well, so we are only talking about 60 officers total, so only 2-3 officers per shift, spread over 5 years and 3 campuses.
5. How will this change the economics of us hiring private security right now?
 - a. What will shift will be our use of BPD. Right now, we have off-duty Baltimore City Sheriff's Office deputies and BPD working for us. This would shift. Our other security contracts would remain in place.
6. Why would this change anything then?
 - a. Response times would change. Re-deployment times would be quicker. The staffing shortages with the BPD - we often have trouble staffing our officers because we have trouble getting them to come off-duty from the BPD.
7. Friday - Senate Bill 793 and the House Bill 1094. There is a hearing on Friday morning 9-11AM in front of the Baltimore City House Delegation (16 delegates). There is a floor session and following that, the judiciary session of the house is having a hearing. After that, across the street to the senate hearing. There will be opportunities for all of those for public comment. You can call, email, stop by, and visit. We expect that the hearings will be this Friday, the votes will be within a week or 10 days. We would move through the legislature, The general assembly session ends on April 8th, so this must pass by then.
8. Who are the sponsors of the bill?
 - a. Senate: Antonio Hayes (Chair of the Baltimore City Senators Delegation)
 - b. House: Cheryl Glenn
 - c. Signed: Rosenberg, Branch, Haynes, Macintosh
9. Will this go through? What is your estimation?
 - a. We keep talking to people and persuading them.
10. What do you think about the amendment of having the police force on the university police force (amendment by Mary Washington)?
 - a. We looked at her proposal and what she submitted does not match what she is saying publically (Facebook). We know that at JHU the regional departments (campuses) do not have a responsibility for safety overall/at other campuses. At this point, we do not agree with her statement. University police do not have 3 layers of accountability that we are proposing. We want to sign the university police into a system with accountability

11. We recently hired a regional training director. Across security, across the enterprise, there is one director. ICAM (de-escalation training). While all of this goes on, we want to make sure to better our established security system. What would it look like?
 - a. We want to look at giving our officers advanced de-escalation training, profiling training, training interacting with individuals with behavioral or health concerns or in crisis, victims of sexual assault.
12. People say that there are systemic issues, if we are hiring batches of people from the BPD given that BPD is not that great in the police force? If we patch through groups, we might be taking on some political baggage, which would not solve the problem.
 - a. We will be hiring from the BPD and from the county. With the slow pace of hiring and recruitment, we will have time to decide whether a person is the right fit. We don't want to get groups or cliques from BPD to bring bad habits over, we will be looking at them as individuals.
13. What are the standard weapons they will be carried in light of all the trainings?
 - a. Current security force: Unarmed, and will remain unarmed.
 - b. Future force: Handgun, taser, mace
14. Is there any discussion regarding changing the primary weapon using training?
 - a. We are discussing this. We want to solve the problem.
 - b. The bill spells out training that puts alternatives to force as the first line of action. Also, alternatives of arrest. We want to move away from a force model. If you're curious it's appendix P from the bill all the different ways that we are requiring training from moving away from force as a first resort.
15. Will body cameras be used?
 - a. Yes.
16. Who will own the body cam footage? Who is in charge of it?
 - a. We would be releasing it. For an active investigation, this would happen after the investigation is sufficiently far along. We are not allowed to move forward with getting body cam for current security.
17. The training, will it address the issues that this police force will have that the BPD will not have, issues that are specific to the JHU campus?
 - a. Profile of an average constituent. International students. Yes. The officers need to be able to understand the community and the students and staff. Idea of community-policing aspect. The community knows the officers and the community.
18. What will happen if one of these officers catches a student and a person off campus smoking weed, will these people be processed the same way?
 - a. Arrest will be the very last resort that someone takes. Part of the approach is that we are taking a much more education approach than arrest approach.
19. What do you make about the statement about racial profiling (current food workers) made about the current JHU security force?
 - a. Melissa Hyatt has only been working on this for a year. Student advisory council is also a new entity and leadership is aware of all of these issues. Also, going forward, we would have a lot of authority about the kind of people that we hire and train.

20. It was mentioned earlier that they would release body cam footage if/when necessary. But as we understand, there would be no legal limitations. Are there ways in which we can give people assurances that are transparent without opening ourselves up to what we can not release (FERPA and HIPAA)?
 - a. No answer.
21. How effective is this program? Has it been used anywhere else? Are there any scenarios that you have considered that are anti-activism activities, like protests or free speech. What is the outcome so far from the pre-existing state?
 - a. From the protest and activism student affairs point of view, the university is dedicated to free speech. Security is there for safety and doesn't intervene unless there is violence. We would not see this changing with a police force.
22. One of the reasons for the interim study was the rising number of school shootings, I reject this claim and I wonder why the university has not taken other measures to address this concern?
 - a. JHU release a survey that the most effective protocols were evacuation and lockdown trainings. This has not been addressed. Glass labs and offices. There are online active-shooter training courses online but many are unaware of these courses and resources.
 - b. It has come up a number of times, some of the undergraduate groups have brought this up. We are thinking about doing something more active but we still need to work on this.

Approval of the Minutes:

A motion is made to approve the minutes. The motion is seconded and passes.

E-Board Report:

- The Formal happened. It was good.

Funding Requests:

ANSHE Lecture:

- The New Eastern Studies Department request funding for an annual lecture where they will invite a scholar in the field. Expect 60 attendees,
- Travel: to and from the airport and flight.
- Drinks: Will be under our department, 100.
- A motion is made to fully fund. The motion is seconded and passes.

2019 Tournees Film Festival at JHU

- 6 days of films, French film festival,
- If this is approved, we would be at 49%, we are more than 50% through the year.
- A motion is made to fully fund. The motion is seconded and passes.

GPSA Coordinator Elections:

- This person is in charge of organizing all the events during GPSA week. We hold 5 different events. The person that takes this position is in charge of organizing and coordinating these events for \$10K and be paid for a maximum of 25 hours.
- One nominee, first year Master's student Maansi Vatsan.
- Undergraduate degree completed at Washington University in St. Louis. 2 major organizations, comedy director and booked comedians to come to campus. Helped plan on campus concerts, happy hours, and other social events.
- Junior Honorary, oldest and largest student carnival. Alumni and charity chair, alumni of the organization that would be back. Worked closely with the charity.
- Used to working with drastically different budgets.
- The Guinness Brewery opened up recently, and that would be interesting.
- The GPSA coordinators have come to E-Board meetings, are you available at 6PM on Monday's.
- What are the non-alcoholic drink options? Do you have any ideas for those? We can have non-alcoholic cocktails. We can advertise this and depending on the budget we can also provide snacks.
- A motion is made to vote by a show of hands. The motion is seconded, it passes.
- GPSA Chair is elected: Maansi Vatsan.

PATH Updates:

- Improvements:
 - New need-based child-care expense coverage plan (email sent out in Dec 2018).
- Coming soon:
 - Move toward covering out-of-pocket expenses for vaccination due to work travel.
 - New healthcare enrollment and communications tool.
 - New healthcare emergency fund designated for graduate students.
- Updates in progress
 - All-sex bathrooms.
 - Easier access to health insurance for international work.
 - Newborn vaccination resource for international students.

Discussion about the JHU Private Police Force (Q&A) Earlier Today:

- They have only a 96-person survey that they are using to claim support. Do they have any plan to figure out how graduate students feel about this?
- We should take a GC bill in terms of opposition or support. Or ask follow-up questions to Steph. We argue that it is a time-sensitive manner since they are presenting it by Friday. If we want the Maryland Legislature to hear anything from us, we need to take a stance today.
- A motion is made to take a vote tonight on the GRO stance regarding the MOU and the JHU Private Police Force. The motion is seconded and passes.
 - Results: 16 For, 10 Against, 7 Abstaining
- What this forum requested? Many people requested it. The admin did discuss this and attempt to give us their stance. There was a vote last year regarding this. There is a loss of continuity regarding our stance, we should be equally proactive regarding what we do.

- Last time when this body voted, what happened last year was that there was not enough information and people voted against it. Things didn't go well with the administration. A lot of the points were brought up by VP Shollenberger. They did take our comments into consideration. The bill is not perfect, but at least it is improved.
- It was not just lack of information, but it was also fundamental opposition to the police force. There isn't a lot of peer-reviewed evidence of how these private police forces operate on campus in terms of being successful. The underlying reasons are that our peer institutions have these private police forces, but this is a very shallow reason. We allegedly have much more information that this may be harmful.
- Interim study sounds like they manipulated the data to create a crisis that does not really exist.
- Why were these questions not posed when the administration were here?
- Scathing critiques of the university from community members. Many undergraduates opposed the police force. This police force will be unaccountable and undemocratic.
- The position of the GRO may have changed and it is a sensitive issue for members of our community. We knew this discussion would be happening for two weeks now. And that the opinions we raise are part of the representation of our constituents. We should vote to do something about this matter. We are glad that the university has sent people to speak to us.
- The hearing will be on Friday but they will be voting afterward the hearing on Friday.
- As a member of the security concerns committee, what is your assessment on the information provided and what are the key issues that were raised on the committee that are still not being addressed (Question is posed to Security Chair)?
 - Standing questions:
 - Law-enforcement bills of rights that mean that police officers in the case of a complain mean that the police officers are tried by their peers.
 - The only enforcement mechanism in the end is always JHU itself.
 - Baltimore police department uses the training they discussed.
- The bill does not forbid them from unionizing and unionizing in conjunction with the law-enforcement bill of rights will make the composition of the board.
- Accountability boards are not law.
- They weren't clear on how the citizen members would be elected to the board, they were exploring options and they want to keep it open until they push this through. It sounds like we don't really know how they will be selecting the board.
- Accountability Board: 15 members, 13 are appointed by JHU. None of the language says that the accountability can force JHU to do something. This would only be convened when there is a disciplinary hearing. This is unusual compared to how something works, one reason why civilian review does not work.
- Obviously there are fundamental problems with that. Maybe we should summarize this, gather this on Wednesday, and then we let this text we shared with the community, and then we send it on Friday as a voice. Discussion goes on and there are obvious problems here. Have a final text until Wednesday, make any changes and send it out until.
- A motion is made to hold a vote as to whether or not we are going to come out in support the Private Police Force and once we have a result there will be a statement sent out by either the Steph or the Advocacy chairs. The motion is seconded.

- Motion passes. For: 4; Against: 20; Abstain:10
- We could make a provisional statement. If we make a public statement supporting this we can always change our public statement. Would it be useful for our statement to come up on Friday.
- It has potential impact but no definite impact. The Washington Post reached out to the SGA but not to the GRO.
- Issues have been raised repeatedly in different forums.