Campus Safety & Wellness Committee Meeting
March 7, 2024, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Searle Hall

Agenda and Meeting Summary

1. Welcome
   • Committee Co-chairs Mona Dugo, Dean of Students and Assistant Vice President of Wellness with Student Affairs (SA), and Bruce A. Lewis, Chief of Police and Senior Associate Vice President of Safety & Security (DSS), welcomed the 20 attendees.
   • Bruce Lewis spoke about how opioid deaths have risen significantly in Cook County in the past 2 years, and how SA is addressing the issues through enriched education and training, on which Chris Zacharda will present. He also mentioned that emergency messaging timing and content have been improved so that community members have awareness to ensure their safety.

2. Introductions
   • Attendees introduced themselves.

3. Enhancing On-Call Response and Well-Being Check Collaborations
   • Jason McKean from SA spoke about health-safety checks conducted by SA, which has worked on developing a consistent protocol in the language used, the categorization of urgency, and timeline of response. Mona Dugo explained that after the social justice movement, University Police was removed from well-being checks at the request of community members, and now SA handles these checks. Law enforcement is still involved as a partner to SA if an urgent safety issue is present. Jason also shared a new brochure developed by SA for the Evanston Police Department to hand out to NU students as needed, informing them of mental health and wellness resources available on campus.

4. Reorienting the Community Service Officer Program to a Safety Ambassadors Approach
   • Chris Yohe of Environmental Health & Safety, DSS, introduced Danny Ha, newly hired Manager of the Community Service Officer (CSO) program. Chris spoke about how the CSOs are deployed quickly where needed on campus to provide high visibility during recent situations such as an increase in bicycle and scooter thefts. The program partners with FM, for example, to increase the lighting on the high traffic corridors between downtown Evanston and campus. CSOs have been given enhanced training in de-escalation as part of Mental Health First Aid, fire extinguisher use, CPR, and recognizing drug overdose symptoms, for example in the residence halls where they work as overnight security. Four new positions have recently been filled in the CSO program, and new uniforms have been ordered to convey a more engaging presence.
5. **Enriching the Education and Training for Alcohol and Drug Safety**
   - Chris Zacharda from SA spoke about the drug testing kits that SA has been widely distributing on Dillo Day and before. They are drink coasters with circles that, when a liquid is dropped onto those areas, show whether the drink has been altered with a drug such as Ketamine or GHB. Chris also spoke of the Red Watch Band program, which trains students to recognize the signs of alcohol overdose in their peers and how to intervene to save a life. The training programs have already been given to more than 200 students, and by end of Spring the numbers will be closer to 700-900. SA will gladly present these trainings in Chicago as well. Information on how to sign up is on the Health Promotion and Wellness website.

6. **Developing a Campus Alternative Mobile Response to Mental Health Crisis**
   - Dave Young, Director of Behavioral Consultation Programs in DSS, introduced himself. Renee Cherubin from Operations spoke of the overall goal to approach the response to mental health crises differently than other health and safety threats, provide on-site mental health support and de-escalation, educate those in need on available resources, and facilitate appropriate follow-up care. The new concept is to take the clinician to the crisis. Recent progress has included conducting a current state assessment of University-wide crisis response, gathering industry information from various peer institutions, and consulting with subject matter experts. The planned next steps are to build infrastructure, source talent, and launch a pilot program.

7. **Building Awareness through Emergency Messaging Systems and Timely Warning Procedures**
   - Jill Johnson of DSS spoke of the timely warnings that have been sent out and the Community Safety Advisory Board recommendations regarding racial identifiers and other descriptors. Two timely warnings have been sent in the past 12 months, and neither contained racial identifiers. Jill also spoke about DSS’s partnership with Operations and the Office of Global Marketing and Communications to develop a glossary of emergency terms and signage regarding emergency notifications and procedures to increase community awareness on the Evanston and Chicago campuses.
   - Eric Chin of University Police spoke of the process improvements in the 6 months in between the Clark Street Beach shooting in Evanston in April 2023 and the shooting near Wieboldt Hall in Chicago in November 2023. Due to process improvements to further safety and wellness, initial messaging times have been reduced. The Wieboldt event’s messaging went out 4 minutes after notification that shots were fired.
   - Jeff Burklin of DSS described how emergency messages are sent to about 54,000 people and the receipt rate is 97-99%. We encourage community members to list their cell phone numbers in CAESAR (students) or myHR (staff and faculty), since texts can be sent to about 37,000 within only 2 minutes, and other media take longer.