



Student Advisory Committee
to the Auraria Board

SACAB Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/04/2020

Time: 11:00-12:00pm

Location: zoom

ATTENDEES

Community College of Denver

- Taylor Hibbs (SGA Treasurer), Interim SACAB
- Vacant, SACAB
- Kathryn Mahoney, Ex-Officio - present

Metropolitan State University of Denver

- Dominique Perez, SACAB – present
- Birungi Balijhe, SACAB - present
- Guillermo Ramirez, Ex-Officio – present

University of Colorado Denver

- Olivia Neece, SACAB – present
- Marlena Fay, SACAB – present
- Tierza Watts, Ex-Officio – present

Auraria Higher Education Center

- Ariel Redell, Advisor - present
- Angela LeValley, Tivoli Director – present

Others Present

- Raeanna Morgan, AHEC Marketing
- Michael Phibbs, AHEC, Chief of Police

AGENDA

- ☐ Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Marley moved to approve the minutes from last week's SACAB meeting. Oliva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- ☐ Guest Speaker(s):

- Michael Phibbs, Auraria Chief of Police

Chief Phibbs asked if SACAB had anything that they wanted to discuss, first and foremost. The group didn't have any thoughts right off the bat, so Chief shared some updates. The ACPD wants people to understand what the Auraria police department is like and what they do on a day to day basis, so AHEC is working on putting together an ACPD annual report. It is close to

being published. The final document will provide lots of information and statistics, including, but not limited to the number of calls ACPD gets, staffing, budget and equipment information. It should give folks a baseline of understanding.

Another initiative in the works is the Police Advisory Board. At the request of the Auraria Executive Council (AEC), a launch committee was formed to create a guiding document for the Board to include goals, as well as defining membership and other important committee information. The draft document put together by the launch committee has made its way to a few different tri-institutional committees for review and feedback. Once the Police Advisory Board is formed, there will be representation from all three schools (including students, faculty and staff), AHEC, and the larger Auraria community. Chief Phibbs and Colleen Walker, AHEC CEO will both be ex-officio members on the Board.

Chief Phibbs hopes that the Board will be a place to address concerns, gather feedback, get ideas and generally hear from the community. He also explained that the Board could help with strategic planning efforts and should any conflicts arise, the Board would be a place for folks to bring that as well. He is excited about it and wants a really diverse group of folks. He would like to get a wide variety of student input as well; maybe someone who is taking late classes, a non-traditional student, etc.

Chief also shared that ACPD is rolling out a co-responder program. Programs like this team professional social workers with a police department to address the overlapping areas (mental health issues, homelessness, etc). ACPD is excited to be able to use this tool on campus. Would like to partner with the institutional social work programs and create an educational opportunity. Internship possibilities and training experience. Want this piece to launch in the fall of 21. Hoping to get the social workers working with ACPD much sooner than that.

Tierza asked about if the social worker would be linked in with the tri-institutional CARE teams. Chief noted that it's a good thought and that he will consider how to incorporate something like that. CCD shared that they (and MSU Denver) have human services professionals that could help with this process and connect this person to the folks on the CCD side. Chief noted the more synergy, the better the program can be.

Marley asked if the Chief could talk about the relationship between ACPD and DPD. Chief responded, saying that it is a complicated question. The majority of what ACPD does on a day to day basis, they do as a stand-alone department. However, the City of Denver requires all agencies that can charge crimes within their jurisdiction, to file the with one agency, directly to the Denver DA (district attorney). Once Auraria paperwork is done, they send it to Denver and it gets filed with the DA. ACPD gets people charged by going through Denver. Every other department works directly with their DA. There have been ongoing discussions about ACPD filing on their own. Currently ACPD has commissions with the City to be special enforcement officers. It's complicated and highly unusual.

ACPD also has mutual aid agreements with DPD – if either department needs something, they can use each other as a resource. This is a common practice with neighboring jurisdictions. More economic for DPD to have the lab and crime scene van. ACPD will use the Denver crime scene unit for that type of help.

Guillermo noted that MSU Denver is a minority majority institution and asked how ACPD has responded to BLM and how can they ensure the safety of students of color. Chief asked for clarification. Guillermo asked for a general message from ACPD on the BLM movement and some examples of ways that they have bridged the gap by connecting with black folks at the institutions. He also asked about the conversations that may have been happening internally – how to help students who might be afraid. Initiatives and goals the ACPD is seeking this year.

Chief noted that was a really big question. Regarding BLM, Chief is 100% for peaceful protests. He was kind of inspired by one of the peaceful protests on Auraria this year and applauded those folks. People were being respectful of each other and the campus. He shared that he has no tolerance for violence and destruction of property. Fires and other damage can be a dangerous and costly to the campus community. ACPD will always interrupt those kinds of things.

He also shared that the ACPD talks about current events at their daily briefings (how can they do better). He added that he was personally involved in the legislation, senate bill 217 – and that he spent a lot of time working on that bill which later passed. ACPD has already been doing a lot of things that are outlined in that bill. Additionally, getting the Police Advisory Board stood up and getting the Annual Report done is something that they have been working on.

Chief shared that he recently spoke with a group of minority architecture students and they expressed how nervous they are about police officers. He suggested to that group that next time they are walking across the campus at midnight and see an officer, they should say hello, so they won't be strangers anymore. He noted that it's hard to dislike someone you've met in person. It's hard to be afraid of someone once you know their name. The architecture group invited him to be a guest judge at their next event, just so more people can get to know them. Chief also noted that it has to be a two way street – students should include ACPD in events. He feels like he can't start conversations with students on campus during the day, but If students or orgs have events or classes where it would be appropriate to have the ACPD come talk, they are always more than happy to do that. They enjoy meeting groups.

Chief noted that Campus Safe Night will be coming up soon. A group usually travels around campus to identify spaces or things that feel unsafe (lighting, etc). This year's Safe Night event will be virtual and will focus on campus safety and the ACPD. More info to come. Open to ideas – want to bridge the gap. Chief wants students to feel safe on campus. He shared that he and his officers have not been involved in a use of force situation for a long time. Guillermo shared that he hopes that SACAB reps feel comfortable and empowered to continue this conversation.

Dominique asked if there are lots of instances where folks aren't following COVID-19 safety precautions on campus. Has there been any resistance? Chief explained some of the new rules in regards to COVID (mandatory masks, displayed campus ID's etc). In terms of non-compliance with the new policies, it should be treated like any other classroom disruption – conduct office. If folks feel unsafe or if there are other issues going on, certainly call ACPD, but they are not the mask police. Any escalation or disruption, they will be more than happy to handle.

Birungi thanked the Chief for coming and asked what his team do if a racial crime happened on campus. What steps would ACPD take and how would they help? She told the group that she's noticed that police don't take action for the injustices that happen. They spend more time making new laws or putting on Band-Aids instead of bringing justice to the victims. She asked Chief how his team is different. Chief noted that if there is a situation where use of force occurs, it's more serious. He is constantly monitoring the use of force his officers use. Uses early warning system, looking at individual officers and making sure that all his cops are being appropriate. He is trying to train on something other than use of force. He reviews tape of every instance of use of force to ensure that nothing could have been done differently. If complaints are made, they investigate. He provided an example of someone who claimed that one of his officers sexually assaulted her. He shared the full process with SACAB (including a criminal investigation and multiple reviews, eventually finding the officer innocent). They will be as transparent as possible. Camera footage is available in many places on campus. ACPD wants to work proactively to avoid those things/situations. Chief's officers take lots of trainings each year (bias) and they have also worked with Dr. Davidson on DACA issues with the institutions in the past.

Taylor Hibbs asked if ACPD wear body cams. Chief shared that they do not. Auraria has many stationary cameras that can be viewed from multiple angles. However, there are no cameras in classrooms and some other spaces within buildings and on campus. Chief shared that his second reluctance to body cams is that they are really expensive. They are about \$125 per month per officer for cameras. Over \$45,000 a year in camera cost and storage. When you have that much video storage and someone asks for it, it takes time and money to blur and redact folks from the footage. Redaction can be expensive. Not worried about transparency, but worried about cost. In the new Senate Bill, it exempted state police officers from wearing body cams. Auraria PD are all state police officers. Chief wants to talk to the new Advisory Board about that issue. If they feel it is a good use of time and funds, knowing it would take away from something else, he is happy to put the body cam program into place. Not opposed to the transparency. He noted that in the past when officers are on camera, they are almost always right. If the campus would like ACPD to look into body cams, they will.

Chief reminded the group that they can ask ACPD questions at any time. They can always call, email or come over to the police department.

- ☐ Unfinished/New Business
 - Vote on remaining positions

The group discussed and voted on SACAB positions including:

- Chair – Marley
- Vice Chair – Dominique
- Elections Manager/Chief Justice – Biringi
- Public Relations - Bir
- Chief of Staff
- ABOD representative discussion (will we get a CCD rep?)

Marley moved to approve the SACAB appointments above. Oliva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Goals for the semester

Ariel asked the group to think about their goals and passion projects for this year. The group will talk about these next week.

☐ Position Announcements

- SGA
- ABOD
- PODSOC
- FSAC
- SCP
- Reprogramming Task Force
- Pricing Task Force
- Campus Update: Ariel Redell/Angela LeValley


☐ Public Comment

- Follow up from Chief's visit

Guillermo noted that the majority of the folks on the call are white presenting, and he reminded everyone to show up and be an ally. When it came to the BLM question, it was only MSU Denver that said anything during this conversation. He challenged his counterparts to step it up, as allies. Move together as a SACAB. Huge platform. Reflect on what it means to be an ally. It shouldn't be on BIPOC to explain their experience. He thanked his reps for being vulnerable and asking questions to Chief.

Ariel said that the group can spend some time next week talking about today's meeting and what happened. Lots of work to do.

Olivia shared that she and Marley were disappointed in a lot of the things Chief said and some of his responses to questions. She asked the best way to move forward (meeting again with him, craft a response, etc). Ariel recommended using the Advisory Board as a platform to start these conversations. The SACA group can debrief and get some questions down on paper next week and talk about how to move forward. She assured the group that this is a safe space, and not to be timid about sharing thoughts and opinions. There are lots of things the group can begin to do to keep this moving forward.



Tierza noted that maybe the student reps from the Police Advisory Board should meet with SACAB. Share responses back and forth – connect with that group. Maybe a standing meeting, so you can keep a finger on the pulse and vice versa.

Guillermo reminded everyone that being an ally can look different for everyone and stirring the pot can be potentially dangerous for BIPOC. Consider what the first next step is. The advisors are here to help.

Ariel thanked the group for staying late to participate in that conversation.

☐ Adjournment