



Student Advisory Committee
to the Auraria Board

SACAB Meeting

Date: 26 February 2021

Time: 11:00-12:00pm

Location: Zoom

ATTENDEES

Community College of Denver

- Mariam Osman, SACAB--Present
- 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 Harwood, SACAB--Present
- Tierza Watts, Ex-Officio
- Lance Glunz, Student Life Office--Present

Auraria Higher Education Center

- Angela LeValley, Advisor and Tivoli Director--Present
- Raeanna Morgan, AHEC Marketing
- Bryon Weber, AHEC--Present
- Chris Herr, AHEC
- Jackie Slocombe, AHEC--Present
- Cassy Cadwallader, AHEC
- Taylor Hibbs, SACAB Secretary--Present

AGENDA

- ☐ Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - **Marlena called the meeting to order at 11:02. Birungi moved to approve the agenda, Olivia seconded.**
- ☐ Guest Speaker(s):
 - Dr. Devon Wright, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, MSU Denver
 - Dr. Wright mentioned he did some research on the effectiveness of bodycams.
 - He mentioned that bodycams as part of a package are something he supports.

- Dr. Wright mentioned that he appreciates the ACPD resolutions he has reviewed to date.
- He mentioned that there is something uniquely violent about American racism.
- He recounted his experiences during the release of the Rodney King video
 - He mentioned that he thought to himself at the time that “this is it”; that no longer can police brutality be denied. But he stated that obviously, he was wrong.
 - For Dr. Wright, it was a significant learning experience about the violence of police brutality in the USA
 - The most recent incident that reminded him of the Rodney King video was the killing of Philando Castille
 - Mr. Castille’s partner seemed to have a greater presence of mind, and attempt to deescalate the situation than even the Police officer
 - Given that context, he did not think that the video of George Floyd’s murder would lead to any real change, but he was surprised at the BLM protests of Summer 2020.
 - He recalled the counterarguments during the Rodney King release: “You didn’t see the whole video”, “you don’t know what happened before the video started”, “these actions are sometimes necessary in the course of policing”, “African-Americans are prone to crime and live in crime-infested areas”.
- Dr. Wright reiterated that he is in favor of bodycams with the ACPD, but as a part of a package of reforms. He thought the SACAB resolution so far has done a pretty good job of outlining those reforms.
- Angela LeValley asked about bodycams, if there are other institutions that have utilized bodycams effectively, and if there are some best practices.
 - Dr. Wright responded by asking if there was resistance on the part of ACPD to the idea of bodycams.
 - He asked if there was an official statement from ACPD against bodycams, and what form that resistance has taken.
 - Has there been an official statement made by ACPD in which they explain why they reject bodycams?
 - He asked what recourse the student body has to put pressure on ACPD in favor of bodycams?
 - He asked what the response of the three institutions was to bodycams.
 - He asked if SACAB had received support from the administrations.
- Marlina responded that the resolution began in response to a SACAB meeting with Chief Phibbs.
 - She mentioned that Chief Phibbs seemed to place the onus of police-community relationship building on the students
 - She mentioned that Chief Phibbs seems to be openly opposed to bodycams
 - She mentioned Phibbs’ proffered studies from the Journal of Criminal Justice about the lack of effectiveness of body-worn cameras, and how they do not modify police behavior or the public’s view of police themselves.
 - She mentioned that there is a community advisory board, but that the sense from the board is that bodycams should not be implemented.
 - Colleen Walker, AHEC CEO, was present but did not have a readily apparent position on body-worn cameras

- ACPD must present a budget resolution yearly, which is due in two weeks.
- Chief Phibbs seems resistant to the idea of bodycams, but seems amenable to their adoption, given that the student body is his constituency.
- Bryon Weber asked about the cost of a potential bodycam program.
 - Marlena responded that, according to Chief Phibbs, the cost of bodycam implementation and maintenance is approximately \$40,000. She mentioned that Chief Phibbs wants to use that money for other social programs.
- Marlena brought up the update about the Community Advisory Board:
 - There will be a town hall meeting on April 5th, 2021. Marlena mentioned that Phibbs specifically mentioned Marlena during the announcement.
 - ACPD is looking to increase their budget for the 2021 year. She mentioned that there was hesitance on the board since they wanted to implement more community programs instead.
 - For a bodycam program to be included in Fall 2021, it would have to be included in the budget request in 2 weeks.
 - Dr. Wright asked what the obstacles are for implementation of bodycams
 - Marlena responded that ACPD knows that bodycams may be implemented in fall 2021. They have already budgeted for the bodycams but need a push to implement it. Marlena mentioned that the board did not seem inclined to make that push. Chief Phibbs did say that there was some “wobble room” in the budget.
- Mariam asked Dr. Wright about who would be in control of the data of any future bodycam footage. She expressed concern about past incidents concerning data release. Should there be a 3rd party that control the video data? She mentioned it depends on each state.
 - Dr. Wright mentioned he relocated to Colorado in 2018 and is still becoming familiar with Colorado’s law and politics. He agrees that there should be some independent 3rd party that controls the data, instead of the police department themselves.
 - Marlena mentioned that this was discussed, that if there are any limitations of privacy. Privacy has been overlooked in past examples of bodycams programs. She asked the community board to look into something like that.
- Dr. Wright asked if there are other cameras on campus. Marlena said yes, but that the data is handled internally within ACPD. Dr. Wright mentioned that that would be the precedent for data handling. Given that, it would be important to change the data program should bodycams be implemented.
- Marlena mentioned that ACPD had an internal department that handles camera data.
- Taylor asked if there are less tangible benefit to bodycams.
- Dr. Wright said that it would still be better to have them, and that bodycams can also benefit police. He stated that we should not reduce the efficacy of bodycams to merely changing police behavior. If we reduce the question to police behavior, then the answer is that police will still behave in brutal ways to communities and people of color.
- Dr. Wright asked: what are the benefits of having such data?
 - Walter Scott is an example in which video data worked in the favor of the rights of the deceased (Scott), and against the officer who abused his power.

- Documenting officer/citizen interaction will, over time, create the sense in the public that such footage would be taken seriously, and might lead to greater change in the long run.
- In the chat, Olivia, stated: “It looks like the body cam footage from Colorado police goes to the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety. local departments and state patrol report to this division. There is also a clause that requires footage of incidents to be released to the public within 21 days”
- Birungi thanked Dr. Wright for attending this meeting. She mentioned that in discussion with her research advisors, she was led to studies about bodycams that calls anti-bodycam studies into serious question. Such studies cannot be peer-reviewed. She cited a study specifically about campus police interactions, and that on AZ campus bodycams did in fact change officer behavior.
 - Birungi also wanted to bring more studies into the conversation, and would send the studies to everyone in the meeting.
 - The idea that bodycams change police behavior is actually true.
 - There is new 2017 NIJ research that found that officers with bodycams are less violent than police with bodycams.
- Dr. Wright added that it would be interesting to do research about the cameras on campus already, when they were added, how they were implemented, how ACPD has used the video to date. He mentioned ACPD’s use of camera already, and how the existing cameras are already being used to aid in law enforcement activities. To what effect has the existing video system been used by ACPD?
- Dr. Wright suggested expanding the research to the downtown/metro area cameras: how has it been used by police on 16th street mall? The metro area? How about the last 10-15 years?
- Marlena mentioned that the CU system has bodycam programs, and how Auraria campus is the only institution that does not. ACPD was formed to handle a student population of 15K, and how that population has increased 3fold without a commensurate increase
- In the chat, Birungi mentioned that she would send her research to everyone’s email.
- Marlena wanted to make sure that no one felt left out
- Olivia brought up the funding issue of bodycams vs social programs. She didn’t think that it was much to ask for both, especially given ACPD’s expanded budget request. Students are ACPD’s constituency.
- In the Chat, Mariam stated: “We can advise to limit their responsibility: Mental Health Calls/Medical Emergencies/ Noise complaints/ Lost or found property/Walking Escorts/Sexual Assault/Harassment Calls/ be handled by orgs. *other orgs”
- Bryon mentioned that as part of the campus revisioning plan, ACPD is looking into a new facility.
 - He mentioned that currently anytime a facility goes through a program plan, the needs of the new program need to be considered for that facility to serve the police department and the student body.
 - They are currently reviewing architectural firms to implements that plan, but that consultant has not been secured to pursue it.
- Marlena mentioned that there was a lot of opportunity to be involved in that process.

- Marlana mentioned being excited in the CAB meeting about creating an anti-racism department.
 - Bryon said he heard that they are curious about what other kinds of services the community would love to have in the new facility.
 - In the chat, Marlana mentioned she'd like a STAR-like Program.
 - Marlana said she'd love to be involved in those conversations and focus groups. Bryon thought that having SACAB rep in the focus groups would be a great thing.
- Marlana mentioned that CAB meetings were pretty community-based, and that it was not merely Chief running the meetings.
- Marlana brought up the drafting of the resolution.
 - The section about bodycams asked about what the protocols are for when an officer operates in an inappropriate way, and how the resolution can account for that.
- Marlana asked about what the asks are concerning accountability, and not merely requesting bodycams. She wants there to be stronger asks re: bodycam data management and review.
- Marlana stated that The ACLU supports bodycams, but only with a reformed data system. She asked how Auraria campus can implement such a system.
- Olivia looked at the bill by Colorado State Representative Herod, and how their data was sent to the Division of Criminal Justice, which falls within the Department of Public Safety, a statewide department.
 - She stated that ACPD falls into a unique jurisdictional place, between a city and state organization.
 - ACPD doesn't necessarily fall under that bill, given their unique jurisdictional place.
- Olivia reiterated that the video review process is important to any bodycam program.
- Marlana imagined that ACPD is not subject to that jurisdiction.
- Bryon said that setting a clear standard is an important to this discussion.
 - What are the current officer accountability systems in place?
- Bryon mentioned the importance of higher standards, and how ACPD should be held to that standard, regardless of their legal responsibility.
- Marlana mentioned Bryon's point was important, re: standards. But that ACPD should shoulder the responsibility.
- Angela stated that SACAB shouldn't bear this responsibility, in addition to regular student concerns.
- Bryon stated that precedent is important. It is helpful to look to other institution's standard, instead of needing to create our own out of nothing.
- Marlana noted that the meeting is one minute over and asked that everyone think about these issues over the next week.
- Marlana thanked Dr. Wright and wasn't expecting such a robust discussion.
- Unfinished/New Business
 - **Marlana motioned to table the position updates until next meeting (5 March 2021), given the time. Olivia motioned, and Birungi seconded.**
 - ACPD Resolution – Final Editing Process
- Position Announcements
 - **Marlana motioned to table the position updates until next meeting (5 March 2021), given the time. Olivia motioned, and Birungi seconded.**
 - SGA

- ABOD
- PODSOC
- FSAC
- SCP
- Reprogramming Task Force
- Public Relations
- Campus Update: Angela LeValley
- ☐ Public Comment
- ☐ Adjournment
 - **Marlena adjourned the meeting at 12:02.**