CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Safety and security of our community are a top priority for Whittier College. As we continuously strive to improve our policies, processes, and communication, it is useful to have external experts help us to understand what the College is doing well and what we can improve upon.

In spring 2016, Whittier College retained Margolis Healy, a nationally recognized firm focused on school, college, and university safety and security, to lead a comprehensive assessment of safety and security on the Whittier campus by conducting a Public Safety Management Study.

In general, the goal of this evaluation was to look at how we go about keeping the campus safe – our strategies, operations, procedures, and responses – and to let us know in which areas we are doing well and which we can improve upon. The evaluation process involved meeting with students, faculty and staff to gather information, opinions, and general thoughts about safety on campus. The consultants also had in-depth meetings with senior administration and the Department of Campus Safety.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- One of the major recommendations made by the consultant involves making sure that the Whittier College community understands the mission and role of the Department of Campus Safety. This role can be summed up as "Patrol and Protect."

- Over the years, the Department of Campus Safety has taken on a number of duties that go beyond the scope of its role. In order to allow Campus Safety to better fulfill it's duties, some of these tasks need to be redistributed to other offices or resources from off campus.

  An example of this is Campus Safety officers handling all key making and handling. We are already talking with Residential Life about a new system for handling keys and opening doors for students who get locked out of their rooms. In addition, we are converting many of the locking systems on campus to card-swipes, which make them easier to change if a card or key is lost. These changes will free up Campus Safety to spend more time on "patrol and protect" and on responsibilities that only they can provide.

  Another example is the Poet Monitor Program and pat down procedures at dances. The College is in the process of developing new procedures and will update students soon.

- Continued communications with various campus stakeholders is very important for community building and creating a better understanding of the role of Campus Safety. In particular, the development of a formal liaison program with affinity groups on campus would be beneficial.

  Moreover, Campus Safety has initiated the practice of additional foot patrols to ensure that officers have the opportunity to interact with members of the campus community.

- Additional training for Campus Safety officers is essential in ensuring that the department can fulfill its various duties. This includes training with outside agencies and organizations.

Training examples:

- Those offered by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS) and Campus Security Authority (CSA) that ensure all our uniformed personnel are meeting state mandates for training and licenses.

- Additional Clery Training (in progress)

- Training on report writing, including investigation follow up procedures

- Mental health training conducted by a POST (Pease Officer Standards and Training) certified instructor

    o Investigator Rivera is currently certified as a basic POST instructor

- Additional active shooter response training

The Report also emphasized something we already knew: training must also involve the campus community, especially in the area of emergency preparedness. The campus community should play an active role in these types of trainings. There are plans to have additional ALICE and similar types of trainings for the campus community.

- The Department of Campus Safety will lead additional emergency drills and tests of the campus emergency notification systems.

- Continued development of the use of safety-related technology on campus. An example of this would be the installation of electronic key systems in more campus buildings.

- Development of investigation follow-up procedures: Campus Safety will now conduct follow-up on most misdemeanor cases (i.e. thefts under $1000.00, vandalisms, ongoing nuisance calls, etc.)

COMMUNICATION

Late last semester Campus Safety began a process of revamping its website to ensure that safety information is readily available on the web. Whittier College students, faculty, staff and other key stakeholders will be able to find both timely emergency information and crime statistics online. This website will be continually updated.

The College has made a concerted effort over the last few months to ensure that it has updated contact information for students, faculty, and staff. Campus community members should ensure that their information is up to date so that the College can contact them with needed emergency notifications.

SAFETY ON CAMPUS

The data in the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report reflect the fact that Whittier College is a safe campus.