

2020 Summit on Safety and Belonging

Listening Session Summary

January 28, 2020



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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Police Behavior During Protest Events

- Glad-handling the confederate sympathizers and man-handling our own student protesters.
- Lack of arrest for armed white supremacists on campus; espionage and infiltration of students.
- BOG demonstration of sympathy with confederate sympathizers by transferring \$2.5m and paying \$74,999 in silencing money while police continue to monitor student groups: The message is that the university shows bias in favor of white nationalists and against its own students.
- Police procedures during protests: false arrest, infiltration of student groups, lack of follow-up on allegations of misconduct.
- Need to implement recommendations of the Swecker report, especially about police training and policies.
- Lack of priority for threats from white supremacists, considering the extreme threats felt by vulnerable groups such as marginalized groups on campus. Who will be the one targeted by those with guns? Do the police have our backs?
- Over-policing black spaces compared to white.
- Clarity on jurisdictions and cooperation with neighboring police forces such as CHPD.
- Police training: Racial Equity, Cultural Competency, Mental Illness.
- Hostility and unprofessional engagement with students seen as “troublemakers”.

Sexual Violence and Danger

- Sexual assaults far too prevalent, particularly in fraternities and residence halls, rape culture.
- Frat court as a danger zone.
- Victims of assault often leave the university with no follow-up, whereas their perpetrators remain with no sanction. The opposite should be the case: perpetrators should be punished, not survivors.
- Clery report on retaliation of those who report sexual assault, and the misuse of the Honor Court.
- Alcohol abuse on and off campus; frat and dormitory culture.
- Lighting, and “stranger rape” danger in town and on campus.
- Coordination with Chapel Hill PD in prevention issues and in crime investigations.
- More training and emphasis on prevention clearly needed based on shocking AAU survey results.

Communications

- Alert Carolina: Thunderstorms more widely announced than armed white supremacists on Franklin St.
- Delays with sexual assault and other threats such as white supremacists indicate to those potentially targeted that they are not the University’s priority. Not enough real-time information on assaults and physical safety concerns of our students, staff, and faculty.

- Conflict of interest in protecting institutional reputation and image versus allowing students and community members to protect themselves.
- This relates to timely warnings as well as to FERPA retractions: whose identities are being withheld, and for what benefit, the individual, or some institutional interest.
- Lack of student, faculty, and staff representation on Alert Carolina advisory board.

Physical Safety

- Lighting, bus stops, bus schedules during holidays and after dark / in winter.
- Safety for female students walking on campus or in adjacent areas (frat court, Rosemary/Franklin St.) at night.
- More clarity on gun carrying spaces and restricting them further. Why can confederate sympathizers feel comfortable wearing guns, carrying large knives, right on Franklin St. next to campus while threatening the safety and security of UNC students? What can be done to stop this?
- More comprehensive police training on ensuring physical safety of the campus community, including off campus.

Anti-Racist Activism

- “It is evident that UNC police also sometimes harass protesters as they go about their regular business on campus.”
- “To the public it appeared a different standard of security exists for protesters against the Silent Sam monument and protestors supporting monument’s public display.”
- Fear of excessive force from the police, but also fear for physical safety from pro-Silent Sam protesters from off campus. Fear that the police are sympathetic to the confederate sympathizers, particularly since the BOG decision to subsidize them.
- Lack of transparency about possible police misconduct and investigations; Need for police accountability measures such as a citizen review board.

Safety of Marginalized Communities

- Effects of institutionalized racism and historical whiteness on a predominantly white campus, the lack of a sense of belonging for marginalized students. This promotes a feeling of lack of safety, distrust, and other anxieties, thus impacting students’ academic success and overall emotional well-being.
- Feeling of lack of support by some faculty for those with marginalized interests and backgrounds.
- Feeling devalued by the administration. Lack of diversity in administration leadership positions.
- Feeling unprotected by the police in situations of real danger of violence and harm by outside perpetrators filled with hate.
- Net result of all these factors: the emotional and mental well-being of many students suffers. Also, very little trust, given the history and accumulation of recent events.

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