

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Welfare and Security Committee

Friday, March 13, 2015
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Attendance

Members In Attendance:

Albert Concord (GT RSD)
Andrew Hardin (GTRI EOSL) - Chair
Margaret Kosal (INTA)

Members Absent:

Dana Simpson (OSP) - Executive Board representative
Patricia Bazrod (CD&D)
Rene Diaz (Student, MSE) - SGA representative
Linda Harley (GTRI ELSYS)
Andrew Howard (GTRI CTISL)

Invited Guests:

Bradley Latham (GTPD)
William Smith (GTPD)
Mark Demyanek (Facilities)
Nazia Zakir (EH&S)

Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Andrew Hardin at 2:04 PM.

Administration

There were no administrative items to discuss.

Discussion

Mr. Hardin introduced Mr. William Smith, GTPD's new interim Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness. Mr. Smith led a discussion about the outcomes from the after action review of this year's winter weather response. The review indicated that the primary issue was with notifications about closures and delays. Specifically, Mr. Smith

noted that the notification banner on the Georgia Tech website did not go up as soon as is typical, and that the emergency weather hotline was not updated, both of which led to confusion among a small number of community members. Mr. Smith solicited help from interested people on this committee to form an outside review committee to advise on weather notification procedures. Mr. Al Concord, Dr. Maggie Kosal, and Mr. Hardin agreed to participate. Mr. Smith agreed to follow up with those members regarding a meeting time.

The committee agreed that the overall response this year was much better than in years past. One recommendation was made by the committee to make campus-wide email a part of the notification scheme in future years.

Dr. Kosal next brought up an issue with indoor Segway usage by Georgia Tech Police Department officers where the officers were riding the Segways too fast and recklessly inside buildings. Officer Bradley Latham noted that GTPD policy does not prohibit officers from riding the vehicles indoors and that he had not heard this complaint before. However, Officer Latham said that he would bring the problem to the attention of the GTPD patrol managers for review.

Mr. Hardin next addressed an email from a concerned GTRI faculty member regarding the campus smoking policy. The concern was that construction workers building the EBB were blatantly violating the policy, typically within a few feet of the "No Smoking" signs posted in the area, and this faculty member wanted to know how this policy was enforced with respect to the campus community and paid, outside contractors. Mr. Mark Demyanek and Ms. Nazia Zakir noted that information about the smoking prohibition was being passed along to contractors but that it was up to the contractors to enforce it with their employees and their subcontractors. The question arose of whether or not there was any possible enforcement or a plan to do so. Officer Latham agreed to reach out to a contact with Stamps Health Services to possibly follow up with the committee regarding long term enforcement plans.

Mr. Hardin next addressed campus safety improvements, particularly in the aftermath of the high profile incident in the Management building in January. Officer Latham reported that two additional Allied Barton officers had been added in that building, along with securing the building 24/7, upgrading the security cameras to 5 megapixels, and townhall outreach directly following the incident. Officer Latham noted that the original picture from the Clery Alert that was said to be blurry was only an initial picture that was quickly selected from the video feed; there were far more clear pictures even on the old cameras of the person.

Officer Latham also noted that the individual had been caught and arrested this week. Mr. Hardin asked why this information hadn't been published like the original newspaper stories. Mr. Smith noted that Communications had done a press release but that it hadn't been picked up.

Mr. Hardin noted that while the upgrades in the aftermath were a positive development that it would be nice if we didn't have to wait for incidents in order to know where we had problems. Mr. Smith noted that there are programs in place for being proactive about campus safety, such as awareness campaigns (e.g., "See Something, Say Something"), the Campus Safety Walk, and apps like RaveGuardian. Officer Latham noted that GTPD was also planning to partner with Parking and Transportation to review safety policies related to the Stingerette in an effort to improve this service.

Finally, Dr. Kosal asked about campus safety during the visit by President Obama. Mr. Smith, Officer Latham, Mr. Demyanek, and Ms. Zakir described the coordination done by GTPD, Atlanta Police Department, and the Secret Service to secure the event and ensure safe and smooth execution during the event. The one area for improvement noted was that there was a lack of communication to attendees by event organizers about post-event egress: specifically, attendees were not notified that they would not be allowed to leave until after the President was underway. This caused some minor issues initially, but not major problems. Dr. Kosal agreed that it went "spectacularly" and that she had heard no complaints from faculty or staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.

Action Items

- Officer Latham will follow up with GTPD patrol officers regarding Segway usage.
- Officer Latham will provide contact information regarding the GT smoking policy.

Certification of Minutes

Minutes respectfully prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hardin", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Hardin
Chairman
Welfare and Security Committee