

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Welfare and Security Committee

Friday, April 24, 2015

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Harry L. Baker Building, Room 101E

MINUTES

Attendance

Members In Attendance:

Andrew Hardin (GTRI EOSL) - Chair

Margaret Kosal (INTA)

Dana Simpson (OSP) - Executive Board representative

Members Absent:

Patricia Bazrod (CD&D)

Rene Diaz (Student, MSE) - SGA representative

Linda Harley (GTRI ELSYS)

Andrew Howard (GTRI CTISL)

Invited Guests:

Brian Bonus (GTPD)

Rachael Pocklington (Institute Communications)

William Smith (GTPD)

Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Andrew Hardin at 11:08 AM.

Administration

Mr. Brian Bonus is the new GTPD liaison to the Welfare and Security Committee, and he has assumed Mr. Bradley Latham's action items.

Discussion

Mr. Hardin introduced Mr. Brian Bonus, the committee's new GTPD liaison, and Ms. Rachael Pocklington, our guest attendee invited to speak on the smoking policy to address the previous action item. Ms. Pocklington then started the discussion on the

status of the smoking policy and its future direction. Ms. Pocklington noted that in late 2014, the emphasis was on communications, policy awareness, education, and the cessation program, and that enforcement was and continued to be very light. She also noted that in the near future, the original policy working group would likely reconvene to discuss how future enforcement would work.

Ms. Pocklington noted that there are only thought to be small pockets of students, faculty, and staff contributing to ongoing policy violations, with the majority of violations coming from outsider visitors, including contractors and game day attendees. She noted that this was a more difficult problem to solve, but suggested that any contractors found to violate the policy should be reported to facilities management. Aside from this, Ms. Pocklington noted that the policy was intended to focus on reduction and cessation and that enforcement was purposefully light, but that it would likely evolve over time.

Mr. Will Smith then led a discussion on the campus closure feedback session that he had conducted to investigate how his office should handle campus closure notifications in the future. Mr. Smith noted that students wanted something more “official” from this Institute than social media, because they are held accountable by professors to attend class and they want to be confident that the closure notice is “real.” Mr. Smith also noted that business operations requested more tangible notifications, particularly the help deal with interruptions to contractual activities, such as sponsor visits or professional education classes. Finally, Mr. Smith noted that panelists requested a flatly disseminated communique rather than top-down dissemination so as to eliminate communication breakdowns between supervisors and subordinates.

Mr. Smith is recommending that we use GTENS to announce closures and delays because it is seen by most in the community as “official,” it fits under the current GTENS usage model, and it allows access to all the relevant modalities (SMS, email, phone, Twitter, Facebook, campus digital signage, etc). Mr. Smith noted that this was still being discussed and would need approval.

Dr. Maggie Kosal then asked Mr. Smith about the incident involving false tornado warnings posted to Twitter, Facebook, campus digital signs, and the main webpage on April 20, 2015. Mr. Smith noted that all systems automatically trigger for tornado warnings and that the systems that triggered the social media and web alerts based the alert only on the fact that Fulton County was under an alert, rather than based on more precision address information. He said that this was due to a bug in that software. He also noted that the GTENS SMS, email, and phone alert system did not trigger because it correctly used the alert address data to filter the alert out as being inapplicable. Mr. Smith said that they had disabled the automatic social media alerts until the software can be fixed but that automatic GTENS SMS, email, and text alerts would continue.

Finally, Mr. Smith and Officer Bonus discussed campus patrols. Mr. Smith said that GTPD was reorganizing their patrols to provide more interior and on-foot coverage. These new patrols will have larger teams and shorter shifts, and they will include an entirely new perimeter team. Mr. Smith also addressed the Segway action item from the

previous meeting, and he noted that GTPD would be exerting more control over indoor Segway use in the future. Mr. Smith elaborated that the prevalence of indoor Segway use would be reduced or eliminated in the future. Based on this, the committee agreed to close this action item.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM

Action Items

New Action Items

No new action items were generated during this meeting.

Existing Action Items

All existing action items were closed during this meeting:

- **Item:** Officer Latham will follow up with GTPD patrol officers regarding Segway usage.
 - **Action Taken:** This issue was addressed internally with GTPD. GTPD already intended to embed supervisors with Segway units to help enforce the indoor usage policy. Chief of Police further indicated that indoor Segway usage would stop or be significantly reduced due to lack of necessity.
 - **Status:** Closed
- **Item:** Officer Latham will provide contact information regarding the GT smoking policy.
 - **Action Taken:** Officer Latham provided an email introduction to JulieAnne Williamson (AVP of Administration and Finance) who provided further introduction to Rachael Pocklington (Institute Communications). Ms. Pocklington attended the April 2015 meeting and provided Q&A for the committee.
 - **Status:** Closed

Certification of Minutes

Minutes respectfully prepared by,



Andrew Hardin
Chairman
Welfare and Security Committee