

# GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## Welfare and Security Committee

Thursday, October 23, 2014

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### MINUTES

#### Attendance

##### Members In Attendance:

Patricia Bazrod (CD&D)  
Albert Concord (GT RSD)  
Andrew Hardin (GTRI EOSL) - Chair  
Margaret Kosal (INTA)  
Dana Simpson (OSP) - Executive Board representative  
Rene Diaz (Student, MSE) - SGA representative

##### Members Absent:

Linda Harley (GTRI ELSYS)  
Andrew Howard (GTRI CTISL)

##### Invited Guests:

Mark Demyanek (Facilities)  
Bradley Latham (GTPD)  
Laci Weeden (Parent's Program)  
Nazia Zakir (EH&S)

#### Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Andrew Hardin at 4:09 PM.

#### Administration

The 3 September 2014 minutes were discussed. Mr. Rene Diaz made one correction to the minutes. After that, the committee voted to approve the minutes pending Mr. Diaz's correction, with all agreeing that this correction could be made without requiring a second vote.

Mr. Bradley Latham, our Georgia Tech Police Department liaison, Ms. Dana Simpson, our executive board liaison, and Ms. Laci Weeden, the director of the Georgia Tech Parent's Program, were introduced to the committee as invited guest speakers.

Mr. Hardin called for review of any previous work. Mr. Diaz noted that he followed up on previous discussion about the use of and satisfaction in the Stingerette service, and he found through an informal Reddit survey that there were no strongly favorable or unfavorable views and no serious red flags reported. The only issue commonly reported was that van arrival times were highly variable, unpredictable, and not well-communicated to the riders. Ms. Patricia Bazrod noted that her son, a student, commonly uses it and is very happy with the service. The committee decided to not engage in further review of the service at this time.

## **Discussion**

Mr. Hardin led the discussion with a review of the written committee charter, per Mr. Andrew Howard's request from the previous meeting. Mr. Hardin provided the charter to the committee for review and discussion. Mr. Hardin provided three examples of how the committee could fulfill the charter this year, with review of the Institute's policies and responses to: campus self-radicalization, disease outbreaks, and sexual violence. Mr. Hardin then asked for committee input on whether this was thought to be in keeping with the charter's requirements and how else the committee could operate more effectively. Feedback from committee members was that the current and proposed direction for the committee was in keeping with the charter, and no recommendations were made regarding changes to the committee's function.

Mr. Latham led the next discussion on the campus crime report. Mr. Latham provided that vital statistics on campus crime, nothing that overall crime year-to-date is down 6.4%, with the main driver in that drop being far fewer burglaries. Mr. Latham noted that there are still hotspots on campus, with theft/larceny in the CRC, Student Center, North Avenue Apartments, and the Edge Building still high. Mr. Latham noted specific incidences of issues in the CRC with students not locking lockers, leaving bags unattended. Mr. Latham also noted that high theft in the North Avenue apartments is due to students not locking doors consistently, with routine door checks continuing to reveal hundreds (over 240) of unlocked doors in that building. The committee asked what was being done about this, and Mr. Latham noted that the police officers leave notifications on all doors reminding students to lock them. Mr. Latham also noted that the incidence of crime in this complex was due to the high population density in the buildings and the belief of residents that the buildings are secure because of the turnstiles; however, Mr. Latham noted that students were found to frequently "swipe through" outsiders, thus defeating this system. The committee asked the police to continue looking at this issue.

Mr. Latham discussed the property registration program in relation to theft of bicycles on campus. The committee asked if bike thefts were due to lack of proper areas or devices on which to secure bikes, but Mr. Latham noted that bikes stolen were typically secured with cable locks or not properly secured, but that they were typically stolen from bike racks. The committee noted that the registration program needed to be more widely advertised. Mr. Al Concord asked if it could be used by employees, and Mr. Latham responded that this was allowed.

Discussion was opened up to the committee. Mr. Hardin asked about crime around campus. Mr. Latham noted that it was down after a rash of off-campus crime earlier in the year. Mr.

Latham noted that it was higher east of campus, which was unusual, and that it tended to be perpetrated by juveniles participating in gang-initiation activities. Mr. Latham also noted that early-model Jeep Cherokees have been the main target of car thieves.

The committee asked about cross-walk issues. Mr. Latham noted that the worst crossings currently are at 5th Street at Spring Street and Fowler Street at 8th Street.

Ms. Weeden was then asked to speak on the Parent's Program and its needs related to the committee. Ms. Weeden noted that new and prospective parents were most concerned about where their children are living, if they are in safe places, if they are safe walking around campus at night, and how the blue light phones work. Ms. Weeden said that the Parent's Program newsletter attempts to address some of these issues as part of its larger mission to keep parents informed, but she also noted that there was room for input from campus committees.

Ms. Bazrod suggested that the committee provide input to the newsletter as issues arise. Committee members agreed to this in principal, but the committee decided to table discussion on this topic for a future time.

Dr. Margaret Kosal next led a discussion of the campus response plan for an on-campus or Atlanta outbreak of Ebola. She noted that she was unaware of our specific response plan. Ms. Nazia Zakir noted that Mr. Andy Altizer, the Director of Emergency Preparedness, had been planning for this eventuality, including coordinating with EH&S and Health Services. Ms. Zakir noted that the Institute had a plan for decontamination, containment, patient isolation, and notification if a patient presented with Ebola symptoms at the health center. Ms. Zakir also noted that there are currently no plans for any quarantines by Georgia Tech for travelers from west Africa and that we would be following policies set forth by Georgia public health officials for twice-daily temperature monitoring for 21 days following return from one of the west African nations with an outbreak. Mr. Mark Demyanek noted that the Institute was preparing to send out a memo regarding our campus' response plan.

Finally, Mr. Hardin led a brief discussion of meetings with the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee and the Facilities Directors committee. Mr. Hardin noted that parking fees would be increasing by 5% next year. Mr. Diaz asked Mr. Hardin to bring up the possibility of a parking fee payment plan for students similar to that offered to faculty and staff. Mr. Diaz also noted that the special fee charged to students was causing problems for some graduate students because it is not part of the tuition so it is not covered by tuition coverage/assistance as part of the grants and assistantships offered to students working for professors.

Mr. Hardin asked Mr. Demyanek about issues with students disabling fume hood alarms, a topic covered in the Facilities meeting that seemed to be problematic. Mr. Demyanek and Ms. Zakir noted that disabling the alarm is rare as it actually damages it and puts the researcher at risk. This is something that is typically policed at the lab level. Mr. Diaz asked if there was an awareness issue among graduate research assistants. Ms. Zakir agreed that, while EH&S training is required, it may be good to increase parent awareness about EH&S issues by putting a column in the Parent's Program newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

**Action Items**

There were no action items from the previous meeting.

Ms. Bazrod agreed to help coordinate inputs from the committee to Ms. Weeden's group for the parents newsletter.

**Certification of Minutes**

Minutes respectfully prepared by,

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

Andrew Hardin  
Chairman  
Welfare and Security Committee