Report on graduate student meeting with UNH police chief

Date/Time: Thursday November 12, 2015. 9:00 am to 10:30 am.

Individuals in Attendance: Police Chief Paul Dean, GSS Vice President Mike Verney, and Police Advisory Committee Representative Dan Boches

Notes on the meeting:

• Structure of the police department:
  o “Campus Service Officers” consist of the following:
    ▪ Non-sworn full service security guards: 4 full-time, 2-3 part-time, some student help. Duty includes everything besides enforcement.
    ▪ Sworn police officers: 19 police officers (not including Chief Dean).

• Chief Dean wants student leadership to help inform students about the use of a free campus safety app titled “LiveSafe.” This allows students to report crime, vandalism, etc. to the police via text. This app also allows students to engage with the police department anonymously in real time.

• Chief Dean informed Mike and Dan that the UNH police has had issues in the past regarding the (unauthorized) presence of graduate students in UNH buildings during the Holiday season (specifically over Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year’s break). To limit the amount of confusion this year Chief Dean suggests that graduate students obtain keys to their respective academic buildings (if they have not already). The process to obtain a key consists of a one page form (authorized by the Dean or Director) accompanied with a valid ID (UNH ID and/or driver’s license). Please obtain keys before the break in classes.
  o This suggestion by Chief Dean provides a good opportunity for graduate students to discuss if it is a good idea to advocate for all graduate students to receive keys to their respective academic buildings upon arrival to campus for their first semester of studies.

• Chief Dean discussed how he and his department are concerned with the use of drones on campus. Interest in the use of drones has grown in recent years. Students are interested in the use of drone on UNH grounds for recreational usage. Also, drone use has been used by outside businesses on UNH’s campus (i.e., to take photos of campus). However, Chief Dean is concerned with the use of drones as a mechanisms for abuses of privacy between students on campus. As it stands Chief Dean is addressing drone use on campus by personally (unilaterally) allowing or disallowing their use—in other words, no formal policy dictates the use of drones on UNH property at the moment. Before producing and distributing a formal UNH policy on drone use Chief Dean wants to consider how state law is going to regulate drone usage. Also, drone use on campus may be limited (according to FAA regulations) due to UNH’s location relative to Pease Airport. This policy is of interest to graduate students as it can influence the use of drones for future
research purposes. Julie Simpson from IRB may be an important source of information regarding current NH state policy regarding drone usage.

- Chief Dean is interested in creating a future committee on drone safety.
- The UNH police is not interested in the use of body cameras on UNH officers. The acquisition and use of cameras (excluding storage) would cost roughly $157,000.
- Chief Dean understood and recognized graduate student concerns about the use of bikes and skateboards on campus sidewalks. Chief Dean also recognizes the use of Mopeds have grown on campus in recent years. However, Chief Dean said that his department does not have enough funding and resources to vigorously enforce sidewalk safety and sidewalk violations. Chief Dean suggests that before enforcement of these issues starts, a university wide education program can occur informing students about the transportation adequate on and around campus.

- In response to this suggestion, Mike and Dan discussed with Chief Dean about the possibility of outreach by student leadership to engage students about the culture of transportation and bike safety on campus. Stephen Pesci may be a source to help with this project.
  - For example, at the beginning of the Fall semester and the around midway through the Spring semester, an event can be held outside the library to inform students about campus and bike safety, in addition to providing information about the benefits of registering your bike with the UNH police department. It was suggested that a possible bike safety outreach event to the student body could include a partnership with Dunkin Donuts in a similar fashion as previous police outreach programs have.
  - It was also suggested that maybe UNH could have bike maintenance centers on campus to make sure that safe bikes are being used on campus.
- Parking and lighting (in the parking lots) were discussed in regards to UNH’s Manchester campus. Unfortunately, control over the parking at the Manchester campus is difficult due to UNH not owning the property (i.e., parking lots/garages) where classes are being held. Nevertheless, if there are any major parking and/or safety issues at Manchester’s campus, Chief Dean seemed eager and willing to help any concerned students.
- On a final note, a university wide safety walk was conducted a couple of weeks ago. Unfortunately, no graduate student representatives were present because of not being informed about the event. On a good note, Chief Dean informed Mike and Dan that during the walk concerns about lighting around campus and especially when it pertained to crosswalks were addressed. Chief Dean informed Mike and Dan that his is looking to modify a crosswalk mechanism utilized at Keene State College that will increase the visibility of individuals crossing the street and inform oncoming traffic of pedestrians who are crossing the road. In short, the graduate student concern of visibility on campus at night is fully recognized and being addressed by the UNH police department.