

Working Group on TUPD Arming: Progress Report April - May 2021

Overview

- As of May 5, the working group has held 3 meetings.
- The group will spend the period of June – August conducting research and planning a broad and inclusive community outreach strategy.
- The group will reconvene in August and has scheduled 9 meetings to take place through the end of October

The group consists of 14 members representing a broad cross section of the university's student, faculty, and staff populations. In addition, some meetings will be attended by senior staff members of Margolis Healy and Associates, a consulting firm engaged by the university and specializing in campus safety and security assessment.

Discussion Points

For the period April 14 – May 5, the group's discussions focused on how best to acquire an understanding and analysis of:

1. The history of campus policing and the arming of officers;
2. The experiences of peer institutions and recent campus policing reform initiatives;
3. The history of Tufts campus safety and policing and the role of local police forces on each of the Tufts' four campuses; and
4. The history and nature of Tufts police service calls and incident responses.

Discussion points and action items included:

- How to create and ensure the broadest possible community engagement and input during the process of developing recommendations for potentially changing the current model of TUPD arming.
- Reviewing the recommendations and findings from the final report of the Working Group on Campus Safety and Policing workstream.
- Engaging Fletcher students and Professor Eileen Babbit during the spring to conduct open forums and provide the group with a general understanding of the community's perspective on arming in advance of more extensive outreach efforts scheduled for the fall.
- Identifying the most important issues to consider before proposing changes to the current model of arming campus police.

- Tufts hiring of a new Executive Director of Public Safety later in the spring. The new leader will be invited to participate in the work of the group.
- Interim Director of Public Safety Chip Coletta and Director of Public Safety Mary McCauley provided the group with an overview of the current organization and operations of TUPD.
- Steven Healy from Margolis Healy Associates presented an outline of how MHA will support the work of the group by providing research and insight gained from assisting other higher education institutions in reimagining their campus safety and policing programs and determining their arming status. He specifically cited recent reports issued by Brandeis University, Portland State University, and the University of Arizona.