

Working Group on TUPD Arming: Progress Report August 2021

Overview

- As of August 30, the working group has held 6 meetings.
- The group will reconvene on September 13 and has scheduled 5 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 August 18-30, the group's discussions focused on the development of a comprehensive outreach strategy that will ensure that feedback and concerns are heard from the broadest possible range of constituents from the university community; examining various models of campus safety with regard to arming; assessing arming alternatives; and reviewing the wide-range of service calls that TUPD responds to on all campuses.

Discussion points included:

- Opportunities for community engagement will include a survey sent to all students, faculty and staff; focus groups; and forums to be held on all campuses and open to students, faculty and staff. Focus group sessions will invite participation from the Division of Student Diversity and Inclusion; the LGBT Center; BIPOC students, faculty and staff; Tufts Action Group (TAG); Department of Public Safety; Faculty Senate; Department of Student Affairs; University Relations; and Academic and Administrative Councils (university leadership).
- How each campus forum will include a presentation that will precede the Q&A and discussion period. The presentation, delivered by Margolis Healy CEO Steven Healy, will provide attendees with a brief historical background on municipal and campus policing, the evolution of arming campus police officers, and the nature and impact of various national, municipal, and campus policing reform initiatives.
- Understanding how the implementation of a differential approach model would affect the arming of officers on campus, and what changes would be

needed regarding staffing and dispatch of service response teams. What model would work best for each of Tufts' campuses?

- Compiling a list of service calls and scenarios where armed officers are currently considered a necessary part of a response team. The group plans to review the various cases to understand the broad spectrum of incidents that take place on each campus, and to determine whether there are alternative strategies that could be used when responding to certain incidents.