

Working Group on TUPD Arming: Progress Report September - October 2021

Overview

- As of October 25, the working group has held 12 meetings.
- The group has scheduled weekly meetings through early December.

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 September 13 – October 25, the group's discussions focused on the implementation of the community-wide outreach strategy with the goal of hearing questions, concerns, and perspectives on arming from students, faculty and staff on all campuses; in-depth analysis of four years of historical data surrounding Call for Service (CFS); and examining multiple CFS scenarios and assessing what the most appropriate response might encompass for each scenario.

Discussion points included:

- Understanding how Tufts current dispatch system operates and how CFS data is recorded. A breakdown of CFS by campus was reviewed.
- TUPD Executive Director Yolanda Smith and Public Safety Director Mary McCauley assisted Margolis Healy in preparing over 20 CFS scenarios based on cases that have occurred on Tufts campuses. Working group members were walked through the response process and learned how each incident was resolved based on the current campus policing model. The group examined current methods used in responding to incidents (such as mental health crisis, medical calls, theft, lockouts, assaults, wellness checks), and discussed whether and how alternate approach models could be applied in certain cases.
- 15 focus group sessions were scheduled to take place during the week of October 18. Most sessions took place in-person, with a few held by Zoom due to multi-campus participants. The focus groups were facilitated by D.A. Graham of Margolis Healy. In addition, four (virtual) forums were held for each campus for students, faculty and staff invited to share their experiences and perspectives on arming via Q&A and discussions. Steven

Healy of Margolis Healy presented a PowerPoint. A summary of the focus groups and forums will be prepared by facilitators and reviewed by the working group.

- The group reviewed a summary of the results from the survey on arming that was sent to students, faculty and staff on September 9. Nearly 3,000 responses to the survey were received and analyzed.
- The group began its examination of current and alternative arming models by studying the circumstances of various CFS scenarios and comparing how different response approaches such as “unarmed,” “differential,” and “co-responder” would impact CFS dispatch decisions and response teams.