

Student/Community Relations Commission Minutes

Friday, September 25, 2020 at 3:00 PM

1 Call to Order & Location

Hess called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM in a Zoom Webinar streamed on YouTube Live.

2 Attendance

2.1 Members in attendance

Dr. Matt Arbuckle, Sidra Capriolo, Prue Dana, Zoe Douglas, Glenn Ellerbe, Lt. Lara Fening, Chair Megan Hess, Amy Macechko, Jennifer Marston, Molly McNamara, Cathy McVey, Steve Schnabl, Megan Schoettler, Jonathan Shirley, Sgt. Susan Tobergte, Joy Usner, Dr. Scott Walter, Josephine Webb, Andrew Wilson

3 Approval of Agenda

Hess recommended modifying the agenda to move Supporting Local Businesses to the October 9 agenda.

✓ **Vote:** Motion to amend agenda by Dana, seconded by Schnabl. Unanimous approval.

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve amended agenda by Schnabl, seconded by Douglas. Unanimous approval.

4 Approval of September 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve by Capriolo, seconded by Webb. Unanimous approval.

5 Reports

5.1 OPD

Lt. Fening advised that off-campus students have been fairly quiet, with only three mass gatherings reported.

5.2 MUPD

Sgt. Tobergte reported that the MUPD is awaiting news about football and that there have not been many open parties, but most people are complying with the mask mandate.

6 Old Business

6.1 Women Helping Women bar training

Schoettler will be drafting the endorsement letter for the next SCRC meeting. Hess hopes that all SCRC members will sign the letter. Schoettler said the letter will tie in with other SCRC goals and will commend bars that decide to participate. Schoettler asked that anyone who wants to sign it to contact her. McNamara suggested that members could also include a quote why they are signing. McVey asked about the reception from Cincinnati bars and Schoettler responded that she will follow up. Schnabl expressed concerns about the timing of the letter and the student bar employees leaving Oxford for a couple months. The commission discussed the timing and agreed that many students will be returning to Oxford after Thanksgiving.

7 New Business

7.1 Access to resources

Hess updated the commission on the City of Oxford housing study and the ASG renter's rights and education initiative. Schnabl stated that the Housing Advisory Commission reached out to property managers to gauge off-campus housing occupancy, especially non-apartment housing. Schnabl also talked about housing the homeless population from November 2020 through March 2021 and advised that Assistant City Manager Jessica Greene is working with The Family Resource Center to fund it with CARES Act money. Arbuckle asked about subleasing. Hess advised that most students find out about subleasing through Facebook but that many property owners do not allow subleasing. Douglas suggested the creation of a subleasing tool that is moderated. Hess suggested creating a student-moderated page for subleasing due to COVID-19. McVey asked about the feasibility of modifying lease terms to allow for subleasing due to COVID-19. Douglas and Hess spoke about the financial aspect of subleasing. Hess will reach out to Housing Advisory Commission Chair Sherry Lind to see what can be done.

7.2 Off-campus behavior: Health and wellness

Hess expressed disappointment in students not following COVID-19 guidelines. Webb explained that students seem to be wearing masks earlier in the day but as the night goes on usage decreases. Webb wondered how to change the social pressure to follow the guidelines without turning to legal consequences. Hess reported struggling to explain the mask guidelines and the lack of sanctions if they are not followed. Walter advised that norming campaigns take time. Dana suggesting including statistics in messaging to increase impact. Schnabl talked about witnessing individuals who were walking Uptown and not wearing masks and not practicing distancing on several recent occasions and criticized Miami University for ignoring the Oxford community. Arbuckle offered there is only so much the University can control. Schnabl commended Lt. Fening and the Oxford Division of Police and stated the University influence extends beyond the campus even if it has no authority there.

8 Announcements

Dana encouraged the commission to vote and talked about the League of Women Voters Voting Guide. Dana added that the voter registration deadline is 30 days before the election.

Schnabl announced that Oxford Seniors will be offering twice daily trips to the Butler County Board of Elections to vote in-person and early, beginning Tuesday, October 6, and the invitation extends to Miami University students.

Webb asked commission members to use their social media platforms and word-of-mouth to assist with the norming campaign. Hess asked that commission members send her an email if anyone wants to work together on messaging. Usner suggested making the norming campaign extend to the community as well.

9 Adjournment

✓ **Vote:** Motion to adjourn by Dana, seconded by Webb. Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.