

UConn President's Advisory Council on Policing

Purpose

The Advisory Council on Policing (ACP) is being established to advise the University's President and Associate Vice President for Public Safety (AVPPS) on the standards and best practices for community policing. As the flagship university of the State of Connecticut, UConn has an important role in providing intellectual leadership and practical guidance to national, state and local policy makers and citizens alike on the effective design and implementation of community policing. The goals of this Council are to 1) conduct research on effective policing models and methods, 2) advise the President on the prospects for policy changes at UConn, and 3) serve as a sounding board for the AVPPS on changes in policy proposals and strategies that seek to improve UConn's operations and leadership in university community policing.

Motivation

The succession of national tragedies over the past few years that have resulted in African Americans and others dying while in police custody have raised national awareness of the uneven application of criminal justice in America. The UConn community is outraged by instances where police officers have betrayed their sacred oaths to "protect and serve" all of the citizens with whom they engage. We feel a powerful responsibility to ensure that such abuse does not occur in our community, and to inform Connecticut's approach to policing with thought leadership, best practice research, and by bringing to bear the relevant perspectives on which we have strength.

Guiding Values

While we share the national sense of urgency, the Council should proceed carefully, thoughtfully, and deliberately to first assure that our own standards and policies are robust and effective elements of a broader community safety program, and then to reach out to others to help guide improvement. The values that should guide our standards and policies are respect, empathy, accountability, and proportionality in dealing with our students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Membership

The membership of the Council is designed to bring a diversity of relevant perspectives not only on the complex questions related to public safety, community policing, and the use of force, but also in urban policy, education and training, the sociology of racial and ethnic conflict and disparities, psychological aspects of stress and abuse, and the application of human rights principles. While populated mostly by leading university faculty, we have included representatives from a broad range of disciplines, as well as key administrative, student, and staff representatives.