Dear task force members,

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this advisory task force. The past couple of years have increased our awareness of the limits of our current approach to campus safety. The results from the 2020-21 survey provided us with a view of how our community wants to facilitate and experience not only a sense of safety, but to create or recreate systems that offer support beyond a crisis response/law enforcement framework.

Our protocols and practices, though well intentioned, may benefit from review and change as we learn more about what it means to keep each other “safe.” We want to move our campus forward, making use of what we have learned and learning from those who have done similar — and successful — restructuring efforts.

Your main charge is to gather and study national best policies and practices in campus safety, with emphasis on institutions whose demographics are similar to our own and whose systems of governance and legal frameworks and provisions are also comparable. You will not be expected to consider budget models or funding sources but we do expect you to highlight promising practices to consider.
As you conduct your discussions, please consider the safety needs of our current commuter campus and anticipate issues, services and challenges we may need to consider when the new residence halls are completed in 2024. Insightful analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data from the 2020-21 survey should facilitate the identifying of trends, patterns and concerns; along with assessing whether collecting additional campus-based data would be valuable.

You will have access to a Resource Group of communications, counseling, safety and diversity professionals to whom you can look for support and clarity in these two most important areas. We expect your final report late in spring quarter. In between, we will set update meetings with the co-facilitators to keep abreast of your progress and offer support when necessary.

Sincerely,

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cc  
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