

To the Anteater community:

Established at UCI in 2017, the [Public Safety Advisory Committee \(PSAC\)](#) has sought to carve out an effective role to advise the UCI Police Department (UCIPD), UCI Academic Senate, and UCI Administration on steps to improve police-community relations and policing in the UCI community. We view our role as a work-in-progress against a fraught history of policing in the United States, including on university campuses. UCI has not been immune from these challenges. While we recognize our role is advisory, we take PSAC's mission very seriously and strive to work towards effective, community-oriented, and anti-racist mechanisms to improve public safety.

During the academic year 2019-2020, a number of events unfolded on our campus that resulted in a more prominent role for PSAC and underscored the importance of transparency and accountability to the community we serve. This letter is written in the spirit of those commitments.

We begin by sharing an update on the status of the arrest of a UCI alumna on February 20, 2020. With respect to requests to publicly release the Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage of the arrest, we have been informed that the alumna involved in the February incident has requested that her privacy be respected to the greatest extent possible. Since it is our first obligation to respect the alumna's request, PSAC will not take steps to request public release of the BWC footage.

The arrest of the UCI alumna, combined with the February 20, 2020 demonstration by UCI graduate students in front of Aldrich Hall and the nationwide protests around policing and racial justice did, however, lead to PSAC undertaking several steps of action.

1. **Evaluation of the UCI Police Department:** In a [June statement](#) to the UCI community from CFO & Vice Chancellor Ron Cortez, Police Chief Elizabeth Griffin, and Vice Chancellor Douglas Haynes, PSAC was charged with the task of overseeing an evaluation of the UCIPD. PSAC agreed to take on this task with the condition that we could bring in a national expert on policing to carry out this evaluation. In July, a sub-committee of PSAC interviewed outside professionals who bring expertise in campus

policing and a track record of best practices for approaching public safety through the lens of guardians of our community and racial justice. We have forwarded our recommendation to UCI Administration and are currently working with the Administration to begin this review process. All members of PSAC will meet with the selected evaluator prior to the initiation of the review.

An important part of this evaluation will be a systematic review of UCIPD 911 calls to develop an empirically-grounded assessment of whether and to what extent UCIPD is the most appropriate entity on campus to respond to various types of calls for service. In addition, the evaluation will assess all training programs (e.g., de-escalation techniques, communication with arrestees, suspects, and community members) and UCIPD policies and practices (e.g., policies surrounding the processing of misdemeanor arrests, arrangements with surrounding police departments, and the use of the Orange County Sheriff's Department jail). While the evaluation will not be limited to these two areas, we underscore these points to reflect our commitment to determine if some services currently performed by UCIPD might be more appropriately carried out by other UCI entities.

2. Developing a Framework for Review of Police Encounters and Civilian Complaints:

PSAC is working with UCI Administration and Academic Senate leadership to develop a process whereby PSAC members will have access to review police reports and BWC footage related to police conduct that has led to community complaints. In devising an appropriate framework, we will seek to strike a balance between transparency and accountability to the UCI community and complainants' concerns for privacy. PSAC and UCI Administration are currently working on the process through which PSAC will have access to footage for any and all incidents where it is deemed necessary. While PSAC members will be required to sign a confidentiality statement, we are working with UCI Administration to make sure that this agreement does not compromise our responsibility to the UCI community for accountability and transparency.

In addition to the internal process described above, the evaluation of UCIPD by an outside expert will include an examination of the processing and disposition of complaints for alleged police misconduct. Based on this evaluation and PSAC's own review, PSAC will recommend revisions to the current procedures for the review of complaints of alleged police misconduct, including input into final dispositions.

3. **Constructive Engagement and Building Access:** Protests on university campuses are an integral part of an academic community. In recognition of this cornerstone of academic life, PSAC in collaboration with UCI Administration is undertaking a comprehensive review of processes for monitoring protests on campus, including the role of UCI's Constructive Engagement Team which currently includes representatives from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, UCIPD, Dean of Students, Office of Student Life and Leadership, and Scheduling and Event Services. Relatedly, a sub-committee of PSAC is reviewing the existing protocols for closing or limiting access to Aldrich Hall and key buildings commonly used by faculty, staff and students during regular business hours, including the individual(s) with the authority to make this decision and procedures in place to accommodate individuals who have pressing business while these buildings are closed.

Ensuring the safety of the UCI community will be a work-in-progress. As members of PSAC we recognize that we have accepted an important responsibility to serve the UCI community. We also recognize that we take on this responsibility at a moment in American history when all aspects of policing our communities is open to question, examination, and transformation. Finally, we acknowledge that we do not have all the answers. So we urge you to share any concerns, questions, and suggestions with us through psac@uci.edu. You may also reach out to any of us individually if you prefer.

Sincerely,

Katie Tinto, Chair - Clinical Professor of Law, School of Law

Adisa Ajamu - Director, UCI Center for Black Cultures, Resources, and Research

Karen Andrews - Director, Disability Services Center

Davidian Bishop - Director, LGBT Resource Center

Gwendolyn Black - Director of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, UCI Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Marguerite Bonous-Hammarth - Assistant Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Office of Inclusive Excellence

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