

## University Life Committee (ULC)

Minutes – January 16, 2025, Meeting  
Meeting called to order 2:30pm  
Approval of Minutes – Statement read

### Members in Attendance

Anne Gessler, Yolanda Edmond, Louisia Beck, Benjamin Franz, Michelle Giles, Stephanie Holleran, Natalie Pecknold, Matthew Perry, Gene Shan, Yi Su, Lisa Sublett, L. Jean Walker

### Alternate Members/Guests in Attendance

Russell Miller, Audrey Pena Miguel Venegas, Andre Wiemer, Stacey Zellner, Tina Powellson

### Members & Alternate Absent

Preeti Jain, Stephan Sabu, Sheeba Thomas, Reece Tuscano, Andrea Black Erika DeLeon, Queinnise Miller, Bernadina Streeter, Jennifer Willis-Opalenik, Yolanda Nimmer-Williams

### Minutes

#### 1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by chair Dr. Anne Gessler.

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dr. Gessler motion to approve November 21, 2024, minutes. Minutes approved by Gene Shan and Natalie Pecknold.

#### 3. Old Business

- a. Chief Russell Miller will address feedback on revised UHCL Map 01.F.08 Violence on Campus

During the November 2024 meeting, MAP 01.F.08 Violence on Campus Policy was reviewed and sent back to Chief Miller for clarification and recommendations. Chief Miller presented his response to ULC's suggestion for Policy Revision-Exclusion Zone and Campus Carry to the following:

1. "Exclusion zone" is mentioned but not defined. Including a formal definition would improve clarity, especially as this is a standalone policy. **The new policy refers to the Campus Carry Policy where the formal definition resides. Having the formal definition in two places creates potential issues of consistency when making changes.**

2. Add a link to the campus carry policy at the end of Section One, similar to how sexual misconduct incidents are linked. This would provide clearer guidance on how these matters are addressed within the broader campus regulations. **I added the policy link in the verbiage. The link already existed in the References section at the end.**

#### **Feedback on Firearms and Weapons Policy**

1. Section G mentions "verbal reference to firearms or other weapons," but the following sentence only refers to "handgun possession," suggesting clarifying the language. **Added clarification.**

2. The term "other weapons" is unclear, suggested renaming this section to "prohibited weapons" to clarify that it refers to weapons not allowed under campus carry policies. **Added the standard clarification phrase "but not limited to..." Regarding changing "Other" to "prohibited" would imply only weapons as prohibited by statute. This ties into the next item.**

3. Suggested to clarify which items are everyday items that would be used with intent to harm. **The "but not limited to" phrase covers anything else without attempting to identify any and everything that could be used as a weapon. Each event will be case by case. For instance, does one consider a chair as a weapon? The answer is probably no, until it is used as one. The same with an ink pen, baseball bat, eyeglasses, etc. Case by case.**

4. There is no provision for self-defense. **Adding this would be too far into the weeds for a policy. Self-defense is addressed in statute and considered by the DA's office on a case by case basis based on the facts. Regarding administrative handling of self-defense, it would take into consideration the findings of a criminal investigation; if self-defense is in play, then something larger has occurred; in order to self-defend, one must be defending from something.**

At the conclusion of the presentation. The committee proceeded to vote on the approval of the Violence on Campus Policy. Motion carries, the policy is approved and will be presented at the University Council meeting.

- b. Updating ULC roster: welcoming new member Audrey Pena (USC Alt. Rep). Audrey Pena was introduced to the committee and the new USC alternate representative. She serves as the Coordinator of Student Organizations in the Student Involvement in Leadership Office.

#### **4. New Business/Announcements**

- a. Yolanda Edmond: Retiring MAP 02.A.18 Probationary Period for Regular Staff Employees  
Yolanda Edmond presented MAP 02.A.18, which outlines the probationary period for regular staff employees. She recommended retiring the policy as it is identical to the SAM policy, word for word. The recommendation will be presented at the University Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Williams

Created February 5, 2025