



### Emergency BIRT Meeting

February 16, 2018 @ 3:00pm – 3:39pm

**Participants:** Maurice Stinnett (DICE); Michael Gribov (DICE); Ronnie Dunn (DICE); Tachelle Banks (DICE); Rachel King (Office of General Counsel); Kelly King (Office of General Counsel); Will Dube (Marketing/Press); James Johnson (Building Services); Mariah Voglestein (OIE); Shannon Greybar Milliken (Student Affairs)

Dr. Maurice Stinnett – Brief background of incident provided. On Tuesday, February 13, a legally blind student was robbed in front of Main Classroom on about 9:35pm. Suspect removed book bag and took cell phone. Maurice has already provided information to President Berkman about this incident, and will follow up with the President after the BIRT meeting. Diversity Leadership team will provide minutes to be disseminated to president and BIRT members.

- 1. Are the student's needs being met?** Police took student to residence in Lakewood. Suspect had prior infractions. Adverse impact may still be there for visually impaired students, though not only blind students have been targeted by this suspect.

Office of Disability Services (ODS) confirmed to Shannon that needs for this student are being met through ODS staff. Needs for the larger community of visually impaired students are being met but we could put other things in place: (i.e. organizing a session with police to discuss what police can do to provide further assistance, provide an escort after class for additional security, make security ambassadors available for visually impaired students, etc.).

Shannon will set up the opportunity for police to meet with visually impaired students to make resources readily available to them. She will share dates with DICE / BIRT.

- 2. What else can be done for the student?** ODS has been working with the student and reached out to visually impaired students. ODS is working on materials – cell phone replaced; needed to communicate with brother and they are working on getting software for the student. Several individuals have indicated that they want to donate funds to cover replacement costs –working with general counsel on the funding arrangement. Per

Shannon, Braille accommodations may need to be replaced through Lift Up Vikes donation account, the emergency funding source for students in crisis. Shannon will share the name of the student with OIE so they can provide assistance as well.

3. **What information do we have from the perpetrator?** Arrested; based video footage, suspected of committing 3 other crimes of opportunity.
4. **Is there a risk of bad press?** Update from Will regarding press requests. After the incident, we received multiple public records request from TV and newspaper channels, which were forwarded to General Council Office. We redacted names and any identifying information in police report and sent to press. Video footage was not provided to media. WKYC interviewed students. A report appeared on 6pm news, [available here](#). It was relatively positive, and they shared the resources that CSU makes available on campus free of charge, including free 24/7 escort services and Viking Shield.

The story has died down from a press perspective, and we are not getting any additional requests. Nothing else is needed for the press, but if another incident were to occur, they may bring this up, so we should be prepared for that and respond with the measures we are taking now to address this situation.

The story was picked up quickly in the press because we communicated that the victim was legally blind but did not communicate that the suspect targeted victims outside the visually impaired community. Will and Rachel will revisit what we put out on campus alert. The content of the information is provided by Campus Police, so they will speak with Campus Police regarding initial content to be included in alerts. They will let the team know about the outcome of that conversation.

5. **Does the student need accommodations and if so, what office should issue them (OIE or ODS)?** Funding may be necessary to replace the items. BIRT does not need to have a separate account to assist in these instances because the regulations for this may slow down the process of assistance. Instead, we will direct individuals to existing resources and provide guidance on setting up their own Go Fund Me pages if they so choose. Shannon will send name to OIE in the event that the student requires academic accommodations. OIE will follow up with the victim and other students with visually impairments who may require academic accommodations.