COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
Michigan State University

Resolution: 15-FS-12
Title: Resolution on Department of Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee
Introduced by: Rep. Vankirk (Criminal Justice)    Introduced on: 12/2/2015
Supported by:

THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ENACTS:

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS) oversight committee is to “receive and address grievances by persons against the Police Officers or the Police Department and may make recommendations to the Police Chief that disciplinary measures be taken by the Department against any Police Officer who is found responsible for misconduct in office”; and

WHEREAS, the committee is charged with “review(ing) the investigation of complaints received to ensure that responsible procedures have been followed and actions are taken in a timely manner, when warranted”; and

WHEREAS, as per discussions with Captain Monette of the Michigan State University Police Department (MSUPD), the committee is only called when the chair of the committee feels a case warrants review; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Oversight Committee Policy (dated April 2012) furnished to the COGS representative to the DPPS oversight committee by Captain Monette states that, “complaints submitted to the Oversight Committee (or individual committee members) will be forwarded to the Chairperson within 72 hours. Complaints credible in nature will require the Chairperson to contact the complainants to confirm the details of the complaint, and subsequently notify and forward the complaint to all Committee members”; and

WHEREAS, the COGS representative to the DPPS oversight committee has reported that as of December 1st, 2015, the committee has not been convened for the academic year that the committee has not met since 2013, and further that contact with the committee has been sporadic;

WHEREAS, the principle of accountability is central to democratic governance and administration;

WHEREAS, prevention of ineffective policing, irresponsible use of power, redress, complainant satisfaction, and constructive feedback to police departments for improvement of services have all been cited as reasons for commitment to said accountability;

WHEREAS, civilian oversight committees that are co-opted by internal review procedures of police departments have been consistently found to be ineffective in fulfilling their purpose; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students requests that all documentation pertaining to grievances filed against Police Officers or the MSUPD including informal complaints made in written or verbal form be forwarded to the chair of the committee and subsequently to all Committee members for review and action in a timely manner, in keeping with the Public Safety Oversight Committee Policy; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, that documents pertaining to all grievances received by the Chair of the oversight committee, irrespective of their perceived legitimacy by the Chair, be forwarded to all Committee members for review and that the legitimacy of grievances be determined collectively by the committee; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee be required to meet on at least a monthly basis to review activities and civilian interactions with the department in the preceding months;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee, in consultation with the general counsel’s office, develop guidelines for the determination of legitimacy of complaints against the DPPS or any officer associated with the department,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee, in conjunction with the MSU DPPS and any other relevant university units develop and disseminate a policy on how complaints made against the DPPS are to be handled by the DPPS, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect at the conclusion of the Full Council Meeting in which it is adopted.

INTRODUCED ON:

VOTE TOTALS:

_____ FOR

_____ AGAINST

_____ ABSTAIN