MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK



English Division Student Council Ul. Dębowa 7 [Klub Medyk] 80-204 Gdańsk Poland

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President: Tony Eriksson

Gdańsk, 24 IV 2010

ED meeting with the Police

Attending:

- Mr. Tomasz Iwanowski Honorary Consul of Sweden in Gdańsk
- Prof. Dudziak Vice Dean of the Medical Faculty
- Mł. Asp. Zbigniew Kowalczyk Gdańsk Police
- (058) 321-62-92 zibik74@gmail.com
- St. Insp. Jacek Ochędowski Pomeranian Police
 - (058) 321-55-84 jochedowski@pomorska.policja.gov.pl
- Representatives of MSF and English Division Student Council
- English Division students

I. Presentation by the Police Officers

- explained the structure of the Police [National Command, Voivodship level, Municipal level and Precincts] and its primary responsibilities

- showed the Gdańsk Police website www.gdansk.policja.gov.pl and its "find your precinct/znajdź swój komisariat" tool

- the MUG campus is served by:

Komisariat/Precinct VIII ul. Kartuska 245 80-125 Gdańsk (058) 321-68-22 Dzielnicowy/Community Officer = mł.asp. Artur Wosztyl (058) 321-68-29

- the Community Officer works during daytime and his/her role is to be the link between the community and the Precinct, questions, suggestions and non-emergency complaints should be directed to this Officer

- explained the emergency phone line system 112 and 997 - both lines are answered by the same Duty Officers who are experienced Police Officers

- when calling the Police, provide the follwing information in this order:

1. the address/location/intersection you are calling from

[even if the call is interrupted for any reason, the Officer will know where to send a patrol car to help you]

2. BRIEFLY explained what happened and who/what you need [ambulance?

interpreter? traffic accident Officer?]
3. is anyone injured?
4. who is the perpetrator? is s/he still at the location? how does s/he look like?
do you know him/her?
5. your name, phone number [and any other information you are asked for]
6. additional information [is there a crowd? are any streets blocked? etc.]

II. Questions from the audience

- The +48-608-599-999 or 0-800-200-300 emergency numbers are answered by English and German-speaking staff but are active only during the summer months - are there plans to keep them active all year-long?

CURRENTLY NO. However, students may make such request to the National Command in Warsaw because the numbers are operated and funded there.

- Are there plans to translate the Gdańsk Police website?

CURRENTLY NO.

- Are there English-speaking Officers working for the Gdańsk Police?

YES. All the young patrol Officers learned English in school as well during the Police Academy. Translators are available all year-long and additional translators are hired to work during the summer months from 15 V to 30 IX.

- Why is it so difficult to reach an English-speaking Officer when calling 112 or 997? [students gave specific examples of stituations in which they had to drive each other to the emergency room because the Duty Officer did not understand the request for an ambulance]

All Gdansk Police Officers who have direct contact with the community [patrol, traffic, detectives] are currently enrolled in mandatory English language courses. However, it will take some time before they will be proficient in the new language. The Duty Officers who answer the phone lines have many years of experience but have never learned English before.

SUGGESTION: to create a list of most important phrases needed to communicate when calling 112, translate it into Polish/English, print and distribute copies to Duty Officers as well as all foreign students in Gdańsk.

Printing and laminating these cards will be free. The only cost is paper and MUG may donate paper to use for this. Students may design the cards.

- Why is so much attention and resources [additional translators and phone lines] to the summertime tourists and not to the year-long foreign residents?

SUGGESTION: students may write a formal request for year-long resources to Commander of Pomeranian Police:

nadinsp. Krzysztof Starańczak Komenda Wojewódzka Policji w Gdańsku ul. Okopowa 15 80-819 Gdańsk

Prof. Dudziak added that this letter should be first submitted to the Rector, so that he can attach a letter stating his support for this request.

- What are the areas of Gdańsk that are known for criminal activity and should be avoided by students?

A detailed list/map of such areas will be created during a second, less formal meeting of Police and representatives of the MUG Administration and students [termed "the Working Group"].

- What can be done about constant presence of people drinking alcohol in public near the campus during the late hours of the day?

[staircase between DS 3-Ulica Focha and the shortcut between Dębowa 23 and Carrefour Express]

The Police needs permission of the MUG to patrol the campus and intervene [except in emergency cases when life/safety is immediately in danger]. However, drinking alcohol in public is a crime and students should not feel embarassed to report it.

Officers asked for a student to show them the two areas where incidents have occured.

- Can the Police help provide more streetlamps and cameras in the problem areas mentioned?

NO. This is outside of the Police authority. Such requests should be made to the Dept. of Infrastructure at the Gdańsk City Hall. Officers noted that they have a positive relationships with that office and will ask for this Director to be part of the Working Group.

Scheduled the Working Group to meet at the Gdańsk Police Headquarters [Ul. Nowe Ogrody 27] on Monday, 24 V at 1400.

III. Visit to the two problem areas mentioned by the students:

1. The staircase between DS2 and Focha as well as the park/playground are located outside the campus - this means that Officers may patrol there anytime. Officers noted that there is only one streetlamp in the area, it is poorly located and shines no light on the park where people congregate and drink alcohol. However, it is possible to connect additional streetlamps to the existing one. Officers agreed to discuss with their Commanders about sending additional foot patrols to this area during the dark hours.

2. The shortcut to Carrefour Express is also outside of campus. It is unclear who the owner of this land is - this will be verified by the Working Group. After the incident involving an ED student and a homeless man, additional patrols were sent to this area in the late hours as well as early mornings. The Working Group will determine the best strategy for improving safety at this location.