

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council
Virtual Open Meeting
Monday, June 3, 2024
2:00 – 3:15 p.m. EST

The Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council (HSAPC) convened on June 3, 2024, from 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. EST. The virtual meeting was open to members of the public under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, P.L. 92-463 and 5 U.S.C. § 552b.

PARTICIPANTS:

The following individuals participated during the meeting:

HSAPC Members:

- Elisa Villanueva Beard (Chair)
- Dr. Walter Bumphus (Vice Chair)
- Dr. Miriam Feldblum
- Dr. Farnam Jahanian
- Dr. Cynthia Kelley
- Chief John Ojeisekhoba
- Assistant Chief Rudy Perez
- Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer
- Barbara Snyder
- Suzanne Elise Walsh
- Randi Weingarten

DHS:

- Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
- Fayrouz Saad, Assistant Secretary, Office of Partnership and Engagement
- Rebecca Sternhell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS), Office of Partnership and Engagement, Designated Federal Officer, Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council
- Patrese Roberts, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council

REBECCA STERNHELL called the meeting to order and expressed thanks to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, HSAPC staff, HSAPC council members, and meeting attendees. She gave special thanks to HSAPC Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO) Patrese Roberts, noted that the Council had reached a quorum, and invited Secretary Mayorkas to provide remarks.

SECRETARY ALEJANDRO N. MAYORKAS: “Okay, thank you so much. Just my deepest gratitude to the members of the Council for your work in assisting DHS to advance and achieve its mission. I really appreciate your contributions, specifically with respect to the two draft reports that the Council will consider today on combatting online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) and foreign malign influence (FMI) in higher education. I do want to

communicate that it is my intent to hold a closed session of this Council in the coming weeks to address on-campus safety, considering the recent world events. And when I speak of on-campus safety, I do not mean to limit that to college and university campuses, but rather the school and academic environment at large. I think it's going to be a closed session because it will involve very sensitive law enforcement information, and I think it's an important discussion that we all have, which I'm very much looking forward to. And I am looking forward to today's discussion as well. Again, I very much appreciate everyone's contributions of their time, expertise, and guidance. Thank you."

PATRESE ROBERTS thanked the Secretary and welcomed all attendees. She stated her role as the ADFO and moderator for the session. She noted that she would provide additional details about the meeting following HSAPC Chairwoman Elisa Villanueva Beard's remarks, prior to the subcommittees' presentations of their draft final reports.

CHAIR ELISA VILLANUEVA BEARD expressed thanks to Ms. Roberts, Secretary Mayorkas, and attendees. She noted the Council was meeting to receive reports from two subcommittees — combatting online CSEA and countering FMI in higher education — in response to two taskings from the Secretary. Chair Villanueva Beard thanked CSEA Subcommittee Chair Suzanne Elise Walsh and FMI Subcommittee Co-chairs Dr. Miriam Feldblum and Dr. Antonio Flores for their leadership. She commended the three chairpersons' steadfast efforts in spearheading their subcommittees' efforts to produce recommendations for the Council's consideration. She also expressed appreciation for other report contributors.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Chair Villanueva Beard and then outlined the meeting agenda. She emphasized that presentations, comments, and questions should be concise to ensure sufficient time for deliberation. Ms. Roberts said she would open the floor for public comments after each report presentation. She explained that individuals would receive one minute to comment and that after the public comment period, the Council would deliberate before voting. Ms. Roberts introduced President Suzanne Elise Walsh, chair of the CSEA Subcommittee, to present its report and recommendations.

PRESIDENT SUZANNE ELISE WALSH thanked Ms. Roberts and Secretary Mayorkas. She praised the hard work of the CSEA Subcommittee members and the DHS team that supported the Subcommittee by arranging briefings with experts. She noted that the Subcommittee was asked to develop guidelines, procedures, and effective techniques that educators and academic institutions can use to better understand and reduce the risk of online CSEA. She noted that this included establishing a process to detect and report CSEA material online, partnering with law enforcement, and supporting communities. President Walsh explained that the Subcommittee was tasked to assess the Department's educational awareness and school safety resources. She said the Subcommittee heard five overarching themes during its briefings, which were reflected in the report's key findings:

1. There is a lack of understanding of online CSEA, or the subject is avoided in discussion due to discomfort surrounding its content.
2. CSEA is a broader and more widespread term than older terminology, "child pornography."

3. CSEA stands as a heinous and abhorrent crime on the ascent, and presently, the Department is grappling to keep pace with its rapid growth.
4. A significant disparity exists in both the volume and quality of reports submitted to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipline.
5. Financial sextortion of teenage boys aged 13 - 17 is a major growing concern.
6. A plethora of excellent resources exist to address prevention and law enforcement approaches to online CSEA and are well coordinated across agencies; however, caring adults do not know that any of them exist and do not know how to access them.
7. Law enforcement is not going to get us out of this growing challenge of exploitation of young people.

President Walsh then outlined the Subcommittee's nine, top-level recommendations:

1. Take a human-centered, ecosystem approach to education, prevention, and intervention.
2. Increase funding for rapid and actionable research to improve the quality and determine the most effective reported tips, education and training materials, and programs to allow for rapid prototyping and adjustments, and increase funding for training for those involved in investigations to be brought up to speed on the rapidly emerging technologies. Today it is generative AI; soon, it will be extended reality.
3. Increase mental health support for those who work on the frontlines of online investigations.
4. Further enhance the Know2Protect (K2P) campaign to be a one-stop shop for caring adults to reach out to with questions or for help.
5. Design resources that are age appropriate and with victims in crisis in mind. Avoid text heavy resource pages.
6. Remove and reduce barriers to abuse identification and help-seeking, such as shame, victim-blaming, and misconceptions about abuse.
7. Build on the K2P, Together We Can Stop Online Child Exploitation™ campaign by offering a certificate that requires true partnership, not just sign on.
8. Portion information into manageable sizes.
9. Increase collaboration with Big Tech companies, including social media companies, search engines, gaming platforms, streaming platforms, AI companies and platforms, and instant messaging and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) social platforms.

MS. ROBERTS thanked President Walsh for her summary. Ms. Roberts entered the public comment period and reminded attendees of the public comment procedure. No attendees raised their hands.

SECRETARY MAYORKAS: "I was going to defer to after the public comment period closes, but to Suzanne and the team, I would like to express my thanks for the incredibly thoughtful recommendations. I will want to follow up, subsequently, to understand what bodies or organizations we could access to both kick the tires on our follow-up work and to expand our reach. For example, in reaching teachers or school administrators across the country, what bodies can we access to serve as very effective lines of communication and reach? By the way, as a personal aside, I attended a very small ancient ritual this morning expressing thanks for teachers of one's past. It was an incredibly, moving, and beautiful ceremony, one that was quite

resonant for me, since teachers were held in the absolute highest regard in my home growing up. But Suzanne, thank you again.”

MS. ROBERTS thanked Secretary Mayorkas and entered the Council deliberation period. She invited President Randi Weingarten to comment.

PRESIDENT RANDI WEINGARTEN expressed gratitude to Ms. Roberts, President Walsh, and the CSEA Subcommittee members for their dedicated efforts, acknowledging the complexities of online CSEA and similar issues nationwide. She highlighted the profound addictive quality of current technology and noted the significant steps schools are taking to address online CSEA. President Weingarten stressed that law enforcement agencies alone cannot tackle this issue effectively. She called for schools to adopt tools and training as technology and policies evolve. Additionally, she conveyed her appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to the subcommittee, commended President Walsh’s leadership, and voiced her support for advancing the report.

MS. ROBERTS thanked President Weingarten and invited Assistant Chief Rudy Perez to comment.

ASSISTANT CHIEF RUDY PEREZ expressed his gratitude to Ms. Roberts for her coordination and effort on the report. He emphasized the need for a human-centered ecosystem approach, underscoring the importance of consistent discussions and ongoing collaboration between law enforcement and educators.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Assistant Chief Perez. Public attendee Hyebin Kim thanked the HSAPC staff and CSEA Subcommittee for their efforts and asked if deep fakes were becoming prevalent in online CSEA. **ASSISTANT CHIEF PEREZ** said there is a heightened volume of deep fakes being found in law enforcement investigations nationwide, including School Resource Officer investigations. He noted the large volume of deep fakes created for use in sextortion. **CHAIR VILLANUEVA BEARD** added that there is a need for artificial Intelligence (AI) literacy for educators, administrators, students, and other academic stakeholders. Chair Villanueva Beard emphasized the demand for more guidance to help inform academic stakeholders that face the implications of AI and its role in combatting online CSEA.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Chair Villanueva Beard. Public attendee Hyebin Kim asked a follow-up question about how the general public and untrained individuals can identify deep fakes.

PRESIDENT WALSH responded by referencing the Subcommittee’s key findings and recommendations. She emphasized the rapid pace of technological advancements and the need for research capabilities to inform law enforcement. She also highlighted the importance of academic research in educating the public to keep pace with these swiftly evolving technologies. **CHIEF JOHN OJEISEKHOB**A greeted and thanked Secretary Mayorkas, the Council, and President Walsh. He praised the hard work of the CSEA Subcommittee and their final report. Chief Ojeisekhoba acknowledged most of the recommendations and finding targeted K-12 schools but noted that K-12 institutions are often embedded on college campuses. Chief Ojeisekhoba emphasized that there could be an opportunity for implementation of some of these

recommendations via that avenue. Responding to the question from the member of the public, he added that the rate of deep fakes investigations is growing.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Chief Ojeisekhoba and closed the public comment period, reminding attendees that public comments would be accepted for up to 30 days and added to the meeting record. Ms. Roberts initiated voting. The report passed by a unanimous vote. Ms. Roberts thanked President Walsh and the CSEA Subcommittee members for their contributions. She then invited FMI Subcommittee co-chair Dr. Miriam Feldblum and Subcommittee member Dr. Farnham Jahanian to present the FMI Subcommittee's report to the Council.

DR. MIRIAM FELDBLUM thanked Secretary Mayorkas, Chair Villanueva Beard, and the other Subcommittee members on behalf of herself and FMI Subcommittee co-chair Dr. Flores. She extended gratitude to Secretary Mayorkas for his leadership and the Department's commitment to such important issues and strengthening collaboration with higher education. Dr. Feldblum thanked the FMI Subcommittee members for their expertise, experience, diverse perspectives, and contribution of time and effort to respond to the Secretary's tasking. She also thanked the HSAPC staff and the briefers who gave the Subcommittee their time and expertise. She explained the Secretary tasked the HSAPC to provide recommendations on mitigating FMI at colleges and universities, considering existing prevention frameworks and models from the public and private sectors. Dr. Feldblum highlighted that Subcommittee's report focused on two key areas: research security and transnational repression (TNR). She invited Dr. Jahanian to present the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations on research security.

DR. FARNAM JAHANIAN thanked Subcommittee co-chairs Dr. Feldblum and Dr. Flores for their leadership and his fellow subcommittee members for their thoughtful engagement over the last few months. He acknowledged the importance of research security and TNR to academic and higher education institutions and said both deserve a nuanced and evidence-based approach aided by collaboration between the public and private sectors. He said the Subcommittee heard four overarching themes on research security during briefings, which were reflected in the report's findings:

1. The federal government has taken numerous actions to address research security across federal agencies. Agencies have also taken steps to mitigate threats specific to their research environment and implemented several new policies enacted by Congress.
2. Many universities have established effective practices to address research security on their campuses to reduce the risk of and counter FMI in the research environment.
3. Existing forums and task forces can continue to bring together sectors of the United States Government (USG) (including DHS) and academia to coordinate and share resources on research security. More can and should be done to share timely case studies and actionable information with institutions.
4. Previous enforcement actions, especially those resulting from the China Initiative and Presidential Proclamation 10043, have damaged trust between the USG and the academic research community.

Dr. Jahanian outlined the Subcommittee's three research security recommendations:

1. Inform universities of the threat landscape, trends, and update research security case studies.
2. Coordinate with other agencies on research security issues and utilize existing programs to engage universities.
3. Engage with university and Asian-American groups to limit inadvertent harm of policies or enforcement actions on academic researchers and consider staff training opportunities.

Dr. Jahanian thanked Secretary Mayorkas for his foresight in tasking the Council and for considering the Subcommittee's recommendations. He invited Dr. Feldblum to present the Subcommittee's key findings and recommendations related to TNR.

DR. FELDBLUM thanked Dr. Jahanian and explained the context of the types of activities that are considered TNR. She outlined the five overarching themes related to TNR that the Subcommittee observed during their briefings:

1. TNR is an emerging issue that is still being fully understood, defined, and detected, and lacks concrete data and metrics.
2. There are several government agencies and higher education associations being tasked with addressing TNR, but there is a lack of understanding on how these efforts will be linked or coordinated.
3. Addressing TNR requires a nuanced, tailored approach. Enhanced transparency from government agencies, improved communication with campus leadership, comprehensive training, increased awareness, and clear points of contact are essential.
4. The proliferation of online tools and platforms, including social media, facilitates the advancement and dissemination of TNR while complicating the tracking and identification of perpetrators. Targets often include individuals in diaspora communities and their family members in their home countries, contributing to the underreporting of TNR incidents.
5. TNR incidents pose a serious threat to the academic freedom and freedom of expression of targeted students and scholars. Consequently, these issues should be of concern to educational and research institutions.

Dr. Feldblum outlined the Subcommittee's four recommendations related to TNR:

1. Develop a whole-of-government strategy to respond to incidents of TNR.
2. Compile resources and effective practices that help facilitate awareness-building and identify training opportunities.
3. Designate agency and university points of contact and TNR reporting mechanisms to ensure two-way communication between the FBI, DHS, other agencies, and university administrations.
4. Institute timely data sharing so we can move beyond anecdotal reporting and develop better tools to quantify instances of TNR on campuses and inform subsequent actions taken.

Dr. Feldblum outlined the Subcommittee's two overarching recommendations:

1. Look to the past to inform the future. The evolution of coordination between higher education and government agencies can provide lessons to inform a framework for a

measured, transparent, and consistent approach for both research security and protection from transnational repression.

2. Continue to invest in strengthening research and education institutions, which are the bedrock of our national security, and support the recruitment and retention of top talent to ensure U.S. competitiveness.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Dr. Feldblum and Dr. Jahanian and entered the public comment period, reminding participants of the public comment procedure.

PRESIDENT WALSH expressed her admiration for the report and asked the Subcommittee if they believed lack of effectiveness or misunderstanding could emerge from the names of some FMI-related issues. **DR. FELDBLUM** thanked President Walsh and asked for clarification of the protocol to respond to questions or comments during the public comment period **PDAS REBECCA STERNHELL** said public comments would not be accepted via chat, noting individuals could submit written comments after the meeting. She reiterated the public comment period was open and that members of the public should have the opportunity to comment verbally. PDAS Sternhell advised the Council that did not need to respond to questions or comments during the public comment period. **MR. WILLIAMS** invited Ms. Raqueal Legerwood to provide a comment.

MS. RACQUEAL LEGERWOOD expressed her appreciation for the Subcommittee's report and asked to what extent the recommendations were informed by students who have experienced acts of TNR. **DR. FELDBLUM** said she would answer both Ms. Legerwood's and President Walsh's questions. She thanked Ms. Legerwood for her question and noted that the Subcommittee referenced reports from Freedom House and other sources to incorporate students' experiences with TNR. Responding to President Walsh's question, Dr. Feldblum explained that language really does matter and invited other Subcommittee members to respond.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Dr. Feldblum. She closed the public comment period, reminding attendees that public comments would be accepted for up to 30 days after the meeting and uploaded with the meeting record. Ms. Roberts moved to the Council deliberation period.

CHIEF JOHN OJEISKHOBA thanked the Council and commended the Subcommittee on their excellent work. He highlighted the need for training and protocols and emphasized that training and protocols are essential. He iterated that FMI- or TNR-related issues on campus are likely to be reported to campus law enforcement, who would contact the local police or sheriff's department, and officers may lack familiarity with FMI and TNR terminology. Chief Ojeisekhoba noted he has many case studies of this scenario and emphasized the need to think beyond the reporting aspect toward the resources available for campuses and police departments. He highlighted training development efforts and leveraging associations who provide training for campus law enforcement and public safety departments who can also work with the local police departments through memoranda of understanding. He noted that FMI and TNR matters are not seen very often and expressed the importance of the Subcommittee's efforts. Finally, he highlighted the need to explore training and protocols further.

MS. ROBERTS thanked Chief Ojeikhoba and asked if the Council had additional comments. No members wished to provide a comment. **DR. JAHANIAN** motioned to adopt the report as final. **DR. FELDBLUM** seconded. **MS. ROBERTS** noted that FMI Subcommittee co-chair Dr. Flores wished to express his favor for the report. Ms. Roberts initiated voting. The report passed by a unanimous vote. Ms. Roberts expressed gratitude to Dr. Feldblum, Dr. Flores, and the Subcommittee members for their contributions. Ms. Roberts invited Secretary Mayorkas to provide closing remarks.

SECRETARY MAYORKAS: “Just a quick thank you also to Dr. Feldblum and Dr. Flores and President Jahanian. I think what I will do is very quickly this week disseminate the report to the other government agencies that share the mission. I think the findings and recommendations are extraordinarily helpful, and I think they can be very impactful, and we’re going to tackle them collectively across the inter-agency. It very well might be helpful to have you speak to a gathering of the interagency leaders, so I might impose upon you further. But [I] just want to express thanks to the entire Council for your dedication to these critically important issues at a critically important time, so thank you. And to Patrese and Rebecca, thank you so very much.”

MS. ROBERTS thanked Secretary Mayorkas and attendees and adjourned the HSAPC meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Signed and Dated



7-9-2024

Elisa Villanueva Beard, Chair, Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council