UO Police Department Oversight Working Group
Meeting #3: 2/15/2011, notes recorded by Andrea McFarlane

Working Group Members Present:
Linda King
Terry Leary
Adam Lillengreen
Nick McCain
Jeannine Parisi
Greg Rikhoff
Amelie Rousseau
Paul Shang
Brian Smith
Doug Tripp

Resource People Present:
Carolyn McDermed
Ed Rinne

Community Members Present:
Michael Connelly (adjunct professor and community member)

Introductions, Summarized purpose of group and its goals
Four personnel complaints received by DPS in 2010 compared to 60-80 complaints each year with EPD. The low number can mean many different things, but it raises the question of how much of our resources should be put in to so few complaints. It could be a cultural, community issue, or just a different demographic; perhaps the interactions with UO Department of Public Safety (UODPS) are exemplary. What kind of system do you set up when there are so few issues

Because DPS is not a police department, other agencies are called a lot. That alone may defer some complaints. We also don’t have 35 people on patrol. There are 16 assigned to patrol, and counting sergeants and lieutenants there are 22 total. That is not a large organizational footprint. The relationship UO has with public safety is different than it has with municipal departments. It is more intimate, and the primary goal is not to use enforcement, but to problem solve with the community.

The patrol duties are looking for crimes being committed on campus, but we also spend a lot of time one on one with students, for example doing interviews for class projects. Those types of one on one relationships with university students may not generate as many complaints.

Berkeley is very different, so that may not necessarily be a good comparison in terms of complaints. Mostly for design purposes, how can this be as economic as possible? How do you do something surgical, or investigate and monitor complaints to have the capacity to build a system over time. Here’s new system, this is how the process works.
Quite a few of the complaints fielded by EPD were service complaints; UODPS has the ability to provide better customer service.

Just to re-highlight, UODPS contacts persons on day to day basis, there have been 179 letters of trespass in 2010, misdemeanor citations, 51 per month, 87% non students. There were 21 burglaries, 111 bicycle thefts, 27 laptops stolen, and 107 acts of criminal mischief—graffiti and vandalism. Crime does occur on campus; our officers stay pretty busy, needing to focus on non-students who are looking to victimize UO students or property.

Look at how many contacts on campus are non-students. Is there context to this – whether or not students are deferred to conduct system or arrested? Are complaint rates affected by the use of the conduct system?

How would it change if UODPS were a sworn force in terms of being accountable to its use of the conduct system? Procedures would remain fairly equal, the day to day wouldn’t change as to whether students are put into conduct system or given a citation. Quantitative data is recorded. Resident advisors report most issues in dorms, not UODPS. There are nuances one needs to understand, that there is some disconnect between policing students, and UODPS’ aim at monitoring people from outside the university. This may be why crime seems so low, because UODPS is taking care of any attempted crime. When students get arrested it’s very rare, the first offense normally moves on to conduct unless the student is combative; a 2nd offense could go into conduct system or will probably result in a citation, but the courts will likely send students to diversion and reduce the fine; there are no incarcerations for citations, these are monetary offenses. Examples would be ‘MIP’ (minor in possession) or ‘less than an ounce.’ There was a recent burglary in Barnhart committed by a student, but the case was taken by the Eugene Police Department (EPD).

These are fairly typical numbers across nation; our campus is popular target for criminals. The hope of criminals is that students are less attentive and more trusting. National statistics show campus law enforcement agencies focus on outsiders. UODPS is looking for folks with bolt cutters. A lot of the time the outside community is found victimizing each other, or engaged in criminal conduct. Officers are responding to that, sending the message that you cannot come on to campus and commit crimes against our community. There 300 acres of campus to cover, with heavy enforcement along river front. We have students traversing that area regularly and need to keep them safe, provide a safe corridor, but we can only enforce the law on our side of the river. We cannot engage in enforcement on the north side of the Autzen footbridge.

Law enforcement activity at campus sports events is low, mostly ejections and a few citations. Police departments police more than any other agency, they don’t necessarily regard the university community any differently than folks in all other areas of the city.

What some may fear is if a student who has gone over the top, friends become concerned about turning a friend in while also being in an altered state. What does this mean in friends’ best interest?
DPS Officer Adam Lillengreen: Officers are familiar with seeing individuals in altered states, they have regular encounters, but the first and most important role is their community caretaking role for providing safety and help; enforcement is way down the road, but there can always be an enforcement component. There is a spectrum. Will they still seek help with enforcement authority?

Question: Is each and every response documented? Every time we respond to an incident and it moves on to another agency, we have to write a report. We don’t shove a citation in your coat pocket if you are taken to the hospital for alcohol poisoning or a similar emergency. Every phone call coming in to UODPS dispatch is recorded, and a CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) entry made immediately. We record our radios used by patrol officers, and officers record all contacts and interactions made on UODPS-issued recorders. If you are drunk but call because friend is passed out, we probably won’t even ask your name. It is not uncommon to contact someone who is intoxicated, these are young adults who may experiment, are figuring themselves out, and UODPS understands that.

It is also fiscally responsible to defer students to the student conduct system. We have to pay officers to show up in municipal court when citations make it there. The conduct system is better. We focus on significant events, student safety. On the riverfront, the likelihood of a citation is good if you are not a student, we don’t want them on campus property. This is a different kind of enforcement. We have a special responsibility to our students.

The Good Samaritan notion is important. The Dean of Students office has received many requests for interviews. Even though it is exactly as officers discuss—students who consumed too much are taken care of, without citing everyone else who may be intoxicated. This is the college experience, and we would like friends to help friends.

UODPS is at forefront every evening. Whether a student has over consumed on purpose or by accident requires very sophisticated judgment ability. These incidents are quickly taken care of because of UODPS trainings. Waiting for other agencies to arrive would be much more complicated. Students may not understand that this is special in comparison to outside agencies.

It is a hard call to make to parents. Citations are discretionary, we are not even required to make an arrest in domestic violence or child abuse cases, but we do have to report it. We have a lot of resources.

Some students ask for a citation instead of going into the student conduct system. If sent to municipal court, they will most likely be given the choice to go to diversion class and have their fine of $275 dropped to $50 and the UO never hears anything about it. The school doesn’t hear about it and municipal court is not a court of record.

What percent of UODPS contacts made are drug and alcohol related?

Officer Adam Lillengreen: 70% are drug or alcohol related on the graveyard shit. The day shift sees a lot less, maybe 50/50 overall. In the last 24 hours there was only one citation—‘less than an ounce.’ In the 3
years I’ve been working here, I would guess I’ve spent 60% of my time teaching, helping, and assisting; I’ve spent 40% on enforcement. There are calls for service, self initiated calls (where the officer makes contact first), outside agency assists, and making sure everyone is safe. Calls for service include helping staff access buildings, jumpstarts, etc. The Police Officer Hold (POH) is used at Springfield, but we cannot make that call at UODPS. It can be aggravating to have to call for outside agency, then they decide if the case or person is POH worthy, take them to the hospital. We do call EPD or Cahoots, they decide to transport individuals to the hospital.

Currently, UODPS officers can’t pursue suspects off-campus in the commission of a crime that originated on campus.