UO Policing Implementation Advisory Group Meeting Notes
27 January 2012, 10:00 A.M.
EMU Alsea River Room

Attendees: Tim Black, Mike Eyster, Beshara Kehdi, Jamie Moffitt, Greg Rikhoff, Brian Smith, Doug Tripp, Rob Thallon, Randy Wardlow, Mark Watson, Malcolm Wilson, Absent: James Harris, Gordon Sayre, Katie Taylor

Agenda
1. Introductions
2. Overview of Law Enforcement in the Community - Doug Tripp, Greg Rikhoff
3. Future Meetings

Meeting Notes

Jamie Moffitt began the meeting with introductions. She then outlined the agenda which would start with an update of the UO Department of Public Safety transition and policing in the Eugene community, the meeting would end with housekeeping issues.

Doug Tripp gave a status update of the UO Department of Public Safety transition. Eight officers have been commissioned. They are in various phases of certification and gaining state authorization according to their previous experience. The eight officers are taking one of three tracks to becoming fully-authorized as a UO Police Officer: 1) 16-week Police Academy training. Officers going this route will return to the department in June, 2) Two-week refresher training for those who have already been commissioned officers within the last five years, 3) Lateral certification, these officers have been commissioned officers within the last two years. They need only take a written test to become certified.

Those in the Police Academy cannot be certified until nine months after commissioning to ensure that they have received appropriate on the job training in addition to the Police Academy. They will become fully certified in November 2012.

Even when UO employees become certified as police officers, there will be no changes to police services provided to the campus until UO policies are appropriately revised. The first officers the campus community will see are watch commanders, either lieutenants or sergeants. The strategy is to start with a strong framework of officers on this level and build the force from this base.

The Department of Public Safety has also gained access to several databases that not only provide information, but allow the UO Department of Public Safety to share information with other police agencies.

In the area of policy development, the department is currently working to build policies in line with other police agencies. They are also looking into hiring, for one
year, former Eugene Police Department Captain Chuck Tilby to assist with policy development.

Additionally, the department purchased firearms. They are currently only for the purpose of certification which requires training and proficiency with weapon retention and use. The commissioned officers on campus do not have the authority to carry firearms, this authority must be provided by UO leadership and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. Until that time, UO police officers will still require Eugene Police Department assistance when dealing with situations that include violent offenders and active shootings. Eugene Police officers will still transport detainees to the jail as of this time. UO Police officers will only have arms when they going to or participating in firearms training.

98% of all contact on the UO campus is with Public Safety Officers and these major points of contact will remain largely unchanged.

The UO Department of Public Safety is ensuring that the UO Police Officers are distinguishable from Eugene Police Officers. Uniforms will be a different color, badges and patches will be different, etc.

The biggest budget implication associated with the police transition is an adjustment to PERS funding for the commissioned officers. The average Tier 3 adjustment is approximately $2,500 per year. Tier 1, of which there are very few members will have an adjustment of $6,000-$7,000 per year. The department has funding for two years from vacancies to cover these additions.

UO Department of Public Safety is meeting with the Oregon Health Sciences University police force to learn from their transition. One big difference between the two agencies is that Oregon Health Sciences University must pay $24,000 per officer to go to the police academy. The UO police officers fall under state agencies whose police officers’ training is paid for by the Oregon Asset Forfeiture Fund.

The UO Department of Public Safety will continue to monitor legislation to ensure that the UO police force is considered a legitimate agency by all applicable statutes.

There was some concern that recruitment and retention would be hurt by the fact that officers cannot yet carry weapons. Chief Tripp responded that the people seeking work at universities are doing so for different reasons than those seeking work in a municipal force. This is a benefit to recruitment and balances out any candidates who might pass up the UO because the force is not armed. There was emphasis that if and when the officers are armed, they will be trained well and often to retain weapons skill sets.

Greg Rikhoff briefly overviewed meeting materials. The materials gave statistics for Eugene Police Department operations. Response times were highlighted along with the fact that the Eugene Police Officers are seriously overextended. This, in part, is why the Police Chief of the Eugene Police Department was supportive of creating a UO Police Department.
Housekeeping:

Substantive information, such as the handouts about the Eugene Police Department from above should be posted online. There was strong agreement with this. The sentiment was that it is best to have as much of this group’s information available to the public as early as possible.

The next topics to be covered will be in-depth, day-in-the-life of a UO public safety officer and a history of conversations from agencies that have armed their officers. There was interest in visiting the east campus site. More information about how the UO Department of Public Safety is funded would be appreciated by the students.

The Implementation Advisory Group will meet once per month for the next several months.