UO Policing Implementation Advisory Group
August 1, 2012

Attendees: Johnny Earl, Donna Laue, Carolyn McDermid, Kelly McIver, Jamie Moffitt, Greg Rikhoff, Gordon Sayre, Brian Smith, Rob Thallon, Malcolm Wilson

Jamie Moffitt- Announcement
Jamie Moffitt has been in contact with ASUO leadership about new student representatives for the advisory group.

Carolyn McDermid – Department of Public Safety Updates

- Olympic Trials went very well
- Lynn Wilborn has been hired as the new Police Communications and Records Manager
- Three candidates for the Captain’s position visited campus for interviews; the search is in its final stages. It was noted that earlier notice regarding the candidates’ talks would have been helpful for those who needed to change their schedules in order to attend
- Position specifications for Police Officer 1, Police Officer 2 and Master Police Officer are being finalized

Discussion
Monica Hildebrand from the Department of Public Safety (UODPS) collected statistics for campus discussions regarding the police transition, specifically arming.

Statistics about police departments in general:

- Among PAC12 schools, the UO is the only unarmed police department
- All universities in the following conferences have armed police departments: Atlantic conference, Big 10, SE conference
- Amongst the AAU schools, the UO has the only unarmed police department
- For 2004-2005, 44 public universities nationwide were identified with enrollment levels similar to UO (21,000-28,000). Of these, 43 have fully serviced and fully armed police departments
- PSU does not have an armed police department, the Portland Police Bureau has jurisdiction over Portland State University
- OSU contracts their police services to the Oregon State Police, these officers are committed to the OSU campus

UO campus statistics:

- Since April 2011 there have been 15 cases of UODPS officers being victims of harassment, only one of these offenders was a student while the remainder were not affiliated with the UO.
• A profile of the type of person most likely to have interactions with UODPS was compiled from 48 persons arrested on campus on warrants
  o 69% had history of crimes against persons
  o 10% were sex offenders
  o 29% had weapons offenses
  o 21% had history of resisting arrest
  o 31% are currently wanted again
  o 12% have been convicted of assaulting a police officer
  o None were students
  o The standard profile is a 42 year old, white male with a history of crimes against persons

Considerations for campus discussions:

• Evidence cited needs to be relevant and statistically significant
• Emphasize the high level of de-escalation skills used currently by the UODPS, we will continue to train all officers in these skills
• Communicate how availability of tools including firearms adds to officer safety to allow effective interactions with offenders
• Address student fears that arming officers will not result in loss of rights or increased violence towards students
• Share vision of the agency as being one that protects campus from outside threats
• Show statistics of how many people who offend on campus are not from the campus community
• Explain which elements on campus draw outsiders, leaving campus vulnerable, e.g., recycling centers
• Address the issue of increasing jail releases that results in re-arrests on campus
• Refer to Eugene Police Department response time and how this affects safety of campus members
• Gather information from recently armed college/university police departments regarding public rationale, educational formats, etc.
• Consider audience and the type of evidence that would be most effective per group
• Explain and provide evidence that physical presence (of arms, uniforms, vehicles) has deterrent effect

Questions to address during campus discussions:

• Why not spend money currently being dedicated to UODPS transition to subsidize the county jail to keep those re-offenders off campus?
• Is there statistical evidence that shows presence of a firearm reduces harm and increases safety of officers?
• Why not focus on the already successful de-escalation skills or develop similar tools instead of arming?
• Explain UODPS budget increases. How can this spending be in keeping with
the institutional mission when there are cut backs and lack of funding in
other areas?
• There has been an increase in students, but not in faculty or number of police
officers, why?
• Will arming police officers affect students’ rights?

Transition Timeline:

• Summer: gather data, test ideas, continue to refine message
• Fall: talk to smaller, focused campus groups to hear what their concerns are,
build trust, find out what sort of evidence various groups are most concerned
with, share industry standards, highlight service benefits of arming
• Winter: Engage in broader, large group forums, create feedback gathering
portal, broadly advertise strategy, demonstrate that steps are being taken to
satisfy initial concerns
• Spring break: wrap up campus discussions
• Spring: pull together information and advise administration regarding
recommendations.

For next meeting:

• Think about Department of Public Safety name change
• Advisory group members to gather main issues from conversations with peers