University of Arkansas
Public Safety Council

Year-End Meeting Summary-FY13

Date and Time: April 16, 2013, 3:00-5:30 PM

Location: UA Police Department, Conference Room

Council Members: Jules Beck, Chair; Steve Gahagans, Director; Rodney Engen, James Garrett, Bianca Montoya, Elizabeth Joseph; Brooke Moore, Paul Bixby, Colleen Williams; Deborah Kulczak; Findlay Edwards; Cosmo Denger; Gary Smith, Micah Hale

The following meeting notes conclude academic year 2012-2013 principal council activities.

Jules Beck, Chair, convened the UA Public Safety Council meeting at 3:05 PM

Beck nominated Rodney Engen, faculty representative, to be Chair of the Public Safety Council for the coming Academic year, beginning on July 1, 2013. Dr. Engen was elected by the council membership for the coming term; he teaches in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Director Gahagans described the charge from the Provost to council members:

• to develop policies and procedures for the UA police department, and
• to provide oversight of UA police department activities.

The Council was keenly interested in becoming a more active participant in safety issues affecting the campus and surrounding areas.

Updates from the department

1. Parking issues—additional scooter lots will be created due to the increase in numbers of students riding scooters; motorcycle lots had been used by some scooters due to a shortage.
2. Director Gahagans described bicycle regulations on campus and discussed the mix of pedestrian/cycle traffic as well as parking and other violations.
3. So far, ticketed offenses regarding tobacco use have resulted in University citations rather than the pricier city citations.
4. Safe ride and bar closing were discussed; a “soft closing” of bars beyond the alcohol sales time limit was recommended, where some businesses might continue a profitable food business to spread out the home-bound traffic while giving patrons an opportunity to ensure road safety.
5. A personnel update was provided regarding force numbers (35 in October).
Standing Concerns and Issues

1. The Follow Me Software program initiative was discussed; the company intended to provide pilot program software free-of-charge for a year, after which a successful trial might lead to negotiation about installing the program as a permanent on and off-campus safety strategy; some test sites over the past year proved the program to be impractical as well as expensive.

2. Recent campus member issues and security were discussed; the department is examining a number of possible educational approaches, from the recently touted “classroom” defense strategies, to other electronic warning systems. The general use of surveillance cameras has been left up to individual units on campus. The commitment to a “floor coordinator” program was discussed; the program, again, is left for individual units to put in place.

3. Tasers on campus were discussed again. The Council decided to advocate for a change in policy that would allow UA police to carry Tasers as a non-lethal alternative useful for selected, escalating encounters, to protect both officer as well as alleged perpetrator. While current policy prohibits such use on campus, a change would parallel Taser availability to Fayetteville police. The Council agreed to present a change in policy to the Chancellor’s UA Executive Council.

4. Collaboration with the Fayetteville police department was discussed, including the availability of shelters throughout the city that can be shared by students, faculty, and the general public.

5. There was a further discussion about storm notification and shelter in or near campus facilities.

Other new business included discussion about student concerns and departmental proposals to grant programs for three-to-five additional police.

Respectfully Submitted, May 31, 2013
Jules K. Beck, Ph.D.
Chair, UA Public Safety Council