

Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Thursday, December 10, 2009, 2 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed the attendees and began introductions. Other members in attendance were: Phil Berkenbile, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Information; Lee Bird, Oklahoma State University; Melissa Houston for Kerry Pettingill, Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security; Tom McKeon, Tulsa Community College; Janet Cunningham (via phone), Northwestern Oklahoma State University; and Donnie Nero (via phone), Connors State College. Others in attendance were: Kimberly Delk, Rose State College; Jane Legako, Rose State College; Shelby Jay Blundell, Rose State College; Dalton Jackson, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; Bryan Smith, ecapitol.net; Norman Nieves, University of Central Oklahoma; Ike Sloas, Oklahoma City Community College; Autumn Wiles, Seminole State College; Matthew Heggy, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Steven Buck, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and Pam Boatright, Bob Anthony, Ben Hardcastle, Rebecca Richardson, Kermit McMurry, Hollye Hunt, Amanda Paliotta and Tony Hutchinson, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCT. 14 MEETING: Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the Oct. 14, 2009, meeting. Bird moved to approve the minutes, and McKeon seconded. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

OPENING REMARKS: Johnson noted that the task force had been in existence for nearly three years and said that, while much progress had been made in the area of campus safety and security, there was still more work to be done during the upcoming final year of the task force. Berkenbile agreed that the task force would continue to work right up to its final day to improve safety and security on Oklahoma's campuses.

REMARKS FROM DR. JOANN HAYSBERT, PRESIDENT OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY:

Johnson introduced Dr. JoAnn Haysbert, president of Langston University, who gave a PowerPoint presentation about LU's response to incidents on campus. She outlined three gun-related incidents that occurred during the 2008-09 academic year and noted that such incidents could occur "Anywhere, Anytime, Anyplace" and have resulted in the need for higher education to create safer learning and living environments. She described the creation and implementation of LU's Campus Safety Plan that was formulated from input by both staff and students. She noted that, despite the strategies implemented, no one can guarantee total eradication of violence on campus but that LU's goal was to eliminate factors created by non-students and significantly decrease factors inherent to the student body. She added that the work must and would continue.

Berkenbile commended Haysbert and LU on their quick action, being proactive and getting student input and buy-in.

Johnson asked Haysbert what was the biggest surprise and greatest asset throughout the situation. Haysbert responded that she was most surprised by the rumors and large amount of erroneous information that surfaced after the events. She said the greatest asset was the ability of the campus to come together in such a rapid manner to formulate a response.

McKeon noted the importance of learning from the unpleasant events at LU and thanked Haysbert for sharing her experiences.

DISCUSSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2009 SURVEY FINDINGS: Johnson said the task force had recently conducted its annual surveys regarding funding, notification and response, and counseling. He added that a special section was included regarding specific security and counseling needs on the various campuses. He asked Paliotta, Hutchison and Hardcastle to present the survey findings.

Funding: Paliotta stated that the FY10 funding survey was sent to 73 public and private colleges and universities and career technology centers and that 26 responses were received, mostly from public higher education. She said that responding institutions indicated budgeting \$15.6 million for security, or \$66.75 per student, and \$2.2 million for mental health services, or \$9.44 per student, for a combined total of \$17.9 million, or \$76.19 per student. She added that, assuming the state goal would be to provide the national standard of \$100 per student, the total budget need would be an additional \$15.6 million, for a total security/mental health services budget of \$65.5 million. She added that these figures were consistent with the previous year's survey.

Notification and Response: Hutchison presented a PowerPoint of the notification and response survey results for 2009. He said the responses indicated that the system is not regressing but is holding steady and even improving slightly in some important areas. He added that there were also a couple of areas of concern but that was to be expected considering the continued lack of funding. Highlights of the survey included:

- The 71 responding institutions have a much broader array of notification technologies compared to 2008. The 2008 survey revealed that campuses relied much more heavily on e-mail, Web sites and blue phones. The 2009 survey indicated that more students have increased access to notifications via cell phones/pagers, blue phones, text messaging, phone trees and intercoms.
- The survey revealed that 62 percent of campuses have plans for bomb threats, 59 percent for active shooters, 55 percent for hazardous waste and 49 percent for both terrorism and pandemic flu. The percentage with flu plans is up from 32 percent in 2008.
- Development of plans in cooperation with local law enforcement decreased slightly from 84 percent to 80 percent.
- Emergency plan operations are reviewed annually by 91 percent of the responding campuses, an increase from 84 percent in 2008.
- Slightly more respondents indicated that their campuses provided annual safety and security training in 2009 – 82 percent compared to 79 percent in 2008.
- Students are being trained in safety and security procedures at a slightly higher rate.
- The 2009 survey revealed that 54 percent of campuses have mental health recovery plans, while only 30 percent had plans in 2007, the first year of the survey.
- Slightly more than half of campuses responded that they have fire alarms and sprinklers in all buildings.
- The percent of institutions with a photograph of each student on file increased from 58 percent in 2007 to 72 percent in 2009.
- Less than half of campuses have a business continuity plan for operations in place.

Hutchison suggested that some of the anomalies in the survey could be attributed to what type of staff person is responding to the survey. Hardcastle suggested reviewing the survey questions for next year to determine if some rewording is necessary for clarity.

Needs Assessment: Hardcastle noted that the 2009 survey process included a special section regarding the needs of postsecondary institutions in the areas of notification, response and mental health counseling to identify and respond to behavioral threats. He said the respondents provided a list of specific needs and the approximate cost of meeting those needs on a one-time or annual basis.

Hardcastle said the notification and response needs were mostly hardware-related, with target hardening systems being mentioned most often, along with staffing needs and training. He noted frequently mentioned needs for locking systems for doors, radio communication, generators and additional security officers. He said a total of \$28 million in one-time needs and \$1.3 million in annual needs were identified.

In the area of mental health counseling, Hardcastle said the need for more staffing was mentioned most frequently. Training in the areas of behavioral threat assessment and response and drugs and alcohol were also mentioned frequently. He said a total of \$187,100 in one-time needs and \$2.3 million in annual needs were identified.

In closing, Hardcastle noted that signs of progress could be expected in the coming year due to the push for campuses to be NIMS-compliant.

DISCUSSION REGARDING OKLAHOMA SCHOOL EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM (SB 605): Johnson asked Houston to provide an update on the Oklahoma School Emergency Grant Program. Houston said that an item regarding funding would be included in the task force's 2010-11 legislative agenda, to be discussed later in the meeting. She said that the Office of Homeland Security had been able to set aside \$100,000 in federal funds for higher education and career technology for security needs but added that the funds could not be awarded to private institutions. She said, however, that the funds could be given to communities where those institutions could partner with their local police departments. She said a committee would be created after the first of the year for the purpose of developing and providing input on the program, including the criteria for the grant proposals and a training and assessment component.

ADOPTION OF 2010-11 CLASS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Johnson asked Hunt to present the proposed CLASS legislative agenda for 2010-11. Hunt said the agenda consisted of two previously discussed items:

1. Submit a legislative request for funding, to be appropriated through the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, for the Oklahoma School Emergency Grant Program.
2. Actively oppose any legislative efforts to weaken current laws prohibiting the carrying of firearms on postsecondary campuses.

Johnson asked about changing the language of item one to include a specific amount for the funding request. Hunt suggested asking for \$100,000 for the grant program to match the federal funding mentioned previously by Houston.

Bird noted that, while she understood the current budget situation, she remained concerned about the lack of counselors, especially in rural areas, and that those needs could not be addressed by the grant program. Houston suggested making sure that the governor and legislature are aware of the need but that something was better than nothing. McKeon said that Bird made an excellent point and that the full need should be noted in the task force's annual report to the governor.

Johnson asked for a motion to adopt the legislative agenda with the addition of the specific amount for the funding request. Cunningham made a motion, and McKeon seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote.

UPDATE ON CAMPUS SAFETY: GOAL 2010: Johnson asked Hardcastle to provide an update on Campus Safety: Goal 2010. Hardcastle reported 100 percent awareness by campuses of the NIMS-compliance goal. He said there may be a need for tabletop exercises in the coming months and said he would keep the task force informed about the progress and any developments.

REPORT ON REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS (SPRING 2010): Johnson asked Hardcastle to report on the Regional Mental Health Collaborative Meetings planned for spring 2010. Hardcastle said the week of March 1 was 99 percent confirmed. He said the State Regents office was working with the mental health department on dividing the state into meeting areas and designating locations for meetings to be held throughout that week. He said he would keep the task force informed.

DISCUSSION OF CLASS ANNUAL REPORT OUTLINE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR CHAIRMAN GLEN JOHNSON TO SUBMIT BY JAN. 15: Johnson noted that an annual report on the activities of the task force was to be submitted to the governor and legislative leadership. He referred task force members to copies of an outline of 2009 annual report and asked Hardcastle to review it with the group. Hardcastle said the report would include an opening letter from Johnson and Berkenbile, rosters of the task force and support staff, a background of the task force, the needs assessment list, an evaluation of the current status of campus safety and security, and updates on task force initiatives. He said the report would also include the previous two reports from the task force.

Bird asked that the school grant program be added to the list of initiatives and asked when the task force would be able to review the report. Hardcastle replied that the program would be added to the report and that a draft of the report would be sent to the task force for review in early January. Johnson suggested that task force members receive the draft on Jan. 6 and provide any feedback by Jan. 11. Task force members agreed that was reasonable.

Johnson asked for a motion to authorize him as chair of the task force to submit the final report to the governor and legislative leadership by Jan. 15, 2010. Bird made such a motion, and McKeon seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Based on discussion throughout the meeting, there were no subcommittee reports.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Berkenbile noted that task force member Kay Martin would be retiring from Francis Tuttle Technology Center that week and would need to be replaced on the task force. Johnson voiced his appreciation for her work on the task force and asked for a motion to prepare a resolution thanking her for her service. Berkenbile made such a motion, and Bird seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote. Johnson asked Hardcastle to prepare the resolution.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE: Johnson referred attendees to a list of future task force meetings on the agenda and noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Feb. 10, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.