

Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed the attendees and began introductions. Also in attendance were: Bruce Demuth, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; Roger Webb, Diane H. Jackson, Jan Hardt, Jeff Harp, Randy Ice, Robert O. Bost, Jarrett E. Jobe and Kent Epling, University of Central Oklahoma; Kathryn Jones, Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma; Cindy Ross and John DeBoard, Cameron University; Donnie Nero, Connors State College; Noble Jobe, Murray State College; Terry Britton, Rose State College; Doug Major, Pioneer Technology Center; Janet Cunningham, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Brian Burrough, Capt. C.T. Ligon and Capt. Terry Schofield, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; Chief Bert A. Miller, East Central University; Brett Campbell and Bill Horton, Tulsa Community College; Larry Reavis, University of Oklahoma – Tulsa; John Hays, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Jim Utterback and Lana Reynolds, Seminole State College; Paul Sechrist, Jerry Steward, Nancy Gerrity and Ike Sloas, Oklahoma City Community College; Joe Kinzer, Northern Oklahoma College; Steve Smith, Eastern Oklahoma State College; Burns Hargis, Mike Robinson and Lee Bird, Oklahoma State University; Melissa Houston, Oklahoma Department of Homeland Security; Dick Rush, The State Chamber; David Boren, University of Oklahoma; Dru Dear, Northeastern State University; Jason Ramsey, Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges; Lesa Smaligo, Oklahoma Independent Colleges and Universities; Ben Hardcastle, Rebecca Richardson, Emelia Ross and Katharine Gaddis, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Dale Dewalt, The Journal Record, Susan Simpson, The Oklahoman; Tres Savage, Capitol News Now; Hailey Branson and Caitlin Harrison, Oklahoma Daily; Peter J. Rudy, KTOK; Michael Cross, KOSU; and Arnold Hamilton, Oklahoma Observer.

STATEMENTS CONCERNING H.B. 2513: The following representatives from higher education, law enforcement and the business community presented their concerns regarding House Bill 2513, which would allow students who are active military, honorably discharged or CLEET certified and who have a valid concealed handgun license to carry handguns onto college campuses.

- Chancellor Glen Johnson – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, CLASS Task Force Chairman
- President Cindy Ross – Cameron University, Council of Presidents Chairman
- President Roger Webb – University of Central Oklahoma, CLASS Task Force Member
- President David Boren – University of Oklahoma
- President Burns Hargis – Oklahoma State University
- Mike Robinson – Director of Public Safety, Oklahoma State University
- Dru Dear – President, Oklahoma Student Government Association, Senior at Northeastern State University, Political Science Major
- Kent Epling – Parents Association, University of Central Oklahoma
- Dick Rush – President and CEO, The State Chamber

Key points made by the speakers included:

- While well-intended, H.B. 2513 would not meet its stated goal but would instead result in less-safe campuses and would put thousands of people at greater risk.

- The bill has been widely opposed by various student, parent, faculty, staff, law enforcement and veterans groups, which would be the individuals most affected by the measure.
- Campus police undergo special training to prepare them for responding to incidents involving security, and the training referenced in H.B. 2513 may not be equal.
- H.B. 2513 would create an added burden on campus law enforcement by perhaps forcing them to differentiate between the “good guys and bad guys” in already stressful situations.
- Guns are not allowed in many other public/government buildings, such as the State Capitol, where the meeting was being held, and many of those buildings even have metal detectors and security checkpoints in place to prevent guns from entering the buildings. Why should college campuses be handled any differently?
- Overall, college campuses are among the safest places to be, and despite recent events, the risk of an active shooter is actually minimal.
- The answer to protecting students, faculty, staff and visitors on college campuses is to pursue the recommendations made by the CLASS Task Force in its final report presented to the governor and legislative leadership Jan. 15, 2008.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION: Johnson referred attendees to the draft of a resolution of the CLASS Task Force regarding H.B. 2513. He noted that the resolution provided a background of the creation, purposes and work of the task force and details about the various groups opposing the bill and the reasons why. Johnson read the following “resolved” portion of the resolution:

“Now, therefore, be it resolved that the CLASS Task Force respectfully requests that all necessary actions be taken by the Oklahoma Legislature to keep HB 2513 from becoming law in the state of Oklahoma and prevent potentially tragic unforeseen circumstances from occurring as a result of this bill.”

Johnson asked for a vote on approving the draft, and the task force members unanimously approved the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.