

Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 9, 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 Education; Doug Major, Meridian Technology Center; Roger Webb, University of Central Oklahoma; Lee Bird, Oklahoma State University; Janet Cunningham, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Anil Gollahalli, University of Oklahoma; and Kay Martin, Francis Tuttle Technology Center. Others in attendance were: Richard Braley, Murray State College; Melissa Houston, Oklahoma Department of Homeland Security; Jeannette Nance, Governor's Office; Brett Campbell, Tulsa Community College; Ike Sloas, Oklahoma City Community College; Pam Boatright, Bob Anthony, Kermit McMurry, Hollye Hunt, Ben Hardcastle and Sharon Bourbeau, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 15 MEETING: Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the April 15, 2009, meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

OPENING REMARKS: Johnson said that wanted the group to discuss the initiatives accomplished so far in 2009 and some scheduled for the fall. With one and a half years left for the task force, he said the group should consider what else it wanted to accomplish as a group, set priorities and determine what it would take to accomplish those priorities.

He announced that Bird brought a 10-minute video from *20/20* dealing with guns on campus. He said the video would be shown at the end of the meeting and encouraged those who could to stay and watch it.

UPDATE ON 2009-10 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Johnson asked Houston to provide an update on S.B. 605. Houston said the bill, sponsored by Lamb and Denney, is one of the first homeland security bills to devote funds to school security. She said the money was in a revolving fund and includes funds for higher education institutions and career technology centers. Johnson suggested that task force members continue to have conversations with state political leaders to make sure that funding of campus safety is a priority.

Webb stated that, while the task force has support, many more important projects remain. He added that until there's a crisis, it may be difficult to get the attention of political leaders.

Houston agreed that the task force needs to continue moving forward with obtaining federal dollars because there are very significant threats facing our campuses.

Gollahalli suggested that task force members talk about risk management. He said there are numerous lawsuits pending related to Virginia Tech.

Bird mentioned that if institutions are going to request federal funding, they must have a disaster plan in place, and they need to make sure that the security plans are in full compliance.

Berkenbile asked how much money is being spent for security conferences at the expense of institutions. He suggested that the cost of the conferences should be supported by the federal government.

Hunt gave a legislative update and reported there was good news and bad news. She said SB 585 passed, and the governor signed it on May 11. She said three sections were added to the bill.

1. Campus security plans could remain confidential.
2. Institutions still must comply with the Cleary Act.
3. Campuses must define what the campus security plan is.

Hunt reported on HB 1083 and SB 1101 (guns on campus). She said neither bill had moved forward this session, but the issue would definitely arise next session.

Johnson reminded the task force when politicians visit campuses to thank the supporters of campus safety legislation and help others to be aware of the issues with potentially harmful legislation. He posed the question of what the task force members need to do between now and November. Think about what needs to be accomplished and talk to the legislators about it.

REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS: Johnson asked McMurry to report on the mental health collaborative projects. McMurry stated that the task force had recommended increasing counseling services on campuses but that there continues to be a lack of funding. He said, however, that the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has stepped forward with the Mental Health First Aid Training program. McMurry said that, so far, three campuses have expressed an interest and that more should join them in the next few weeks.

Hardcastle reported on the regional collaborative meetings for fall. He said OSRHE was continuing to work with Terri White and her staff to coordinate the meetings. He said that regional meetings would be held with professionals who have similar interests, and it is hoped that resources can be shared. He added that there are several examples of this happening already.

REPORT ON NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) STATEWIDE COMPLIANCE PLAN: Johnson asked Houston to report on NIMS compliance. Houston stated that the higher education system was not up-to-speed and that it is a requirement for federal grant funding. Hardcastle reported that the system would take the campaign approach and that by 2010 all institutions would be in compliance. He said a kick-off meeting would be held and resources provided. He said the approach would be to point out the basic steps toward compliance and keep it simple. He said NIMS compliance is not only about grants but also about the expectation of students and parents regarding campus safety. Houston pointed out that September is National Safety Awareness Month and that it could tie into this.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Johnson asked subcommittee chairs provide updates on recent activities.

Notification: No report.

Response: No report.

Counseling: Bird mentioned the 20/20 video and encouraged attendees to stay and watch at the end of the meeting.

Laws and Policies: Gollahalli provided an update on FERPA and stated that the author of FERPA, former U.S. Sen. James Buckley said recently that it is being abused beyond what Congress intended and that Congress should clarify its intended use and impose penalties on institutions for misuse. Bird asked if the task force should draft an example of a FERPA notice for campuses to use, and Anthony agreed. Johnson asked Berkenbile to be the point of contact for sending the example to career tech campuses.

Funding: No report.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Webb said that senior leadership must recognize safety and security processes and procedures. He said that UCO has had three instances to call together its emergency management team in the past two years and have found deficiencies each time. He reminded task force members that there is still much discontent in society and that legislators and the public in general need to be aware that violent incidents can happen on campuses.

Houston said she appreciated Webb's comments and that it is currently a challenge for homeland security since the parallels between 1990s and now are frighteningly similar. She said everyone must prepare for education and safety ahead of time and not wait for something to happen. She added that there are resources in public safety that can be helpful.

Cunningham said that more emphasis should be put on mental health. She noted that if one event could be prevented from happening, it would be worth the work in the end.

Bird added that drug and alcohol issues need to be recognized. She said there are people in Oklahoma who are in crisis and that greater effort must be placed on prevention.

Campbell what will happen if there isn't another executive order to extend the task force after 2010. He said he hoped the task force work would continue.

Johnson asked if the task force should coordinate a regional awareness briefing to present to senior campus leadership. Campbell and Cunningham agreed that would be helpful.

Houston suggested putting together briefing documents to make law enforcement agencies aware of what is happening in their areas.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE: Johnson announced information for upcoming meetings.

- Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, 2 p.m.

Cunningham noted that Oct. 15 is during fall break for many institutions and suggested finding another date. Johnson asked Hardcastle to handle.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. and the group watched the 20/20 video.