

## **Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force**

### **MINUTES**

Friday, August 15, 2008, 2 p.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed the attendees, including Anil Gollahalli – the new general counsel at the University of Oklahoma and replacement for taskforce member Joe Harroz – and began introductions. Also in attendance were: Phil Berkenbile, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; Kay Martin, Francis Tuttle Technology Center; Donnie Nero, Connors State College; Gary Davis, Oklahoma Department of Homeland Security; Doug Major, Pioneer Technology Center; Tom McDaniel, Oklahoma City University; Roger Webb, University of Central Oklahoma; Patricia Ragle, Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City; Joel Gavin, Governor’s Office; Joe Koerner, Mid America Christian University; Larry Fields and Randy Cochran, Oklahoma Christian University; Michael Storr, Langston University Police Department; Jason Doyle and Aaron Byrd, OETA; Bryan Smith, ecapitol.net; Jeff Packham, Journal Record; Susan Simpson, The Oklahoman; Tom Lindley, Tulsa World; and Kathy Quinn, Nancy Connally, Ben Hardcastle, Rebecca Richardson, Bob Anthony, Hollye Hunt, Tony Hutchison and Katharine Gaddis, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 29 MEETING:** Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the April 29, 2008, meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Johnson said he was pleased with the progress of the task force and with how the final report was so well received. Phil Berkenbile referenced the second National Campus Security Summit at the University of Central Oklahoma and other similar events and noted the benefits of knowing what events had and could happen and what has and can still be done to prevent and respond to them.

Roger Webb provided an overview of the security summit and said that Oklahoma students would find campuses much safer than even a year ago. He said there had been much progress and heightening of awareness but that there was much more to be done. He said the summit featured a live shooter/crisis response event, a trade show and sessions on subjects such as threat assessment, confidentiality, notification, early intervention and more. He noted that the summit was well attended by higher and common education, churches and other organizations and that several task force members also participated.

Johnson said the taskforce subcommittees would report on their ongoing work that day and should provide updates on their recent activities, priorities and strategic initiatives. He pointed out that this work would lead up to the first of their required annual reports, to be followed by another for 2009 and a final report in December 2010.

**REPORT ON JUNE 23 GRANT AND FUNDING TRAINING:** Johnson said that the Campus Security Resource Development Conference was well attended by both career technology and higher education, and he asked Hollye Hunt, who coordinated the training with Linda Mason, to provide an overview of the event.

Hunt stated that there were 50 participants, 23 from higher ed and 22 from career tech, and that it featured a keynote by Sen. Todd Lamb, a taped appearance by Congresswoman Mary Fallin and a panel of grant assistance personnel from local legislative offices. Examples of breakout sessions included counseling programs, grant writing, safety training, community resources and more. Hunt said the event provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on funding, such as best practices and

cost savings. She said the participants were polled at the end of the conference, and 30 responded that it should be an annual event.

**REPORT ON CAMPUS SAFETY SEMINARS:** Johnson asked Gary Davis, training and exercise coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Homeland Security, to provide information on two upcoming campus safety seminars.

Davis said the seminars would be held at UCO on Sept. 2-3 and at Tulsa Community College on Sept. 4-5 and that the course would train emergency planners and provide them with a planning template and checklist to address areas such as establishing planning teams, risk assessments, health and medical issues, emergency communication, campus security and more. He added that a panel of experts on campus safety and security planning would present information on developing campus security plans, providing staff training, the role of law enforcement and communications between agencies. He said this was a pilot program that would go into the course catalog for any other state to use and that Oklahoma was able to tailor the program for the state's needs.

**REPORT ON LEGAL ISSUES CONFERENCE:** Johnson asked Bob Anthony, general counsel for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, to provide information on the Oct. 28 Legal Issues in Higher Education Conference. Anthony said the annual conference, held at the University of Oklahoma, was already close to capacity, and he suggested that a similar event be held in the fall and be open to all postsecondary education. He thanked Donnie Nero for serving on the conference steering committee.

Anthony outlined the agenda for the conference, including an opening session and breakout sessions on various topics – several of which follow up on task force recommendations – such as mental health issues on campus, FERPA, campus security, and the fine line between free speech and threats. He provided copies of the session matrix.

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

**Notification:** Doug Major reported that the subcommittee had meetings to discuss a follow-up survey. He said the survey would ask if campuses had implemented notification systems, and if so, would ask them to report what type, who the vendor is, any challenges experienced and how the campus has notified its audiences that a system is in place. Campuses that have not implemented systems would be asked what barriers are preventing them from doing so and if they need any assistance overcoming those barriers. Major said the survey could accompany the counseling survey if it was ready soon. Otherwise, he said it would be sent out on its own. Hardcastle said their might be a draft of the counseling survey ready by the October task force meeting, and Major said that timeline would work.

Berkenbile stressed the importance of testing whichever notification system is in place so that any potential problems can be addressed before an actual emergency. He noted that the system used by CareerTech's – School Reach – was tested and that it took nine seconds for a test message about an approaching tornado to reach recipients by phone.

**Response:** Davis reported for Kerry Pettingill, who was unable to attend. Davis said that the templates resulting from the campus safety seminars will cover all the subcommittee's recommendations from the final report, plus NIMS requirements.

**Counseling:** Hardcastle reported for Lee Bird and Terry White, who were unable to attend. Hardcastle said the subcommittee was working on training for the fall, questions for the follow-up counseling survey and items for the legislative agenda.

Nero suggested that a request be made to the Legislature for funding to provide counselors on campuses so institutions don't have to rely on community resources and also suggested counseling partnerships in rural areas to maximize resources.

**Laws and Policies:** Gollahalli noted that due to evolving laws and policies related to safety and security issues, it should be a priority of the subcommittee to keep audiences informed of ongoing changes. Specifically, he said the subcommittee would be following possible legislative changes in how FERPA is applied and would be analyzing the new Higher Education Authorization act to determine what effects it may have on campus safety and security. He added that the "guns on campus" issue would likely reappear during the next legislative session and require some attention. He added that the subcommittee would also evaluate the online resources on the CLASS Web site and make recommendations for additional resources on HIPAA and FERPA.

**Funding:** Kay Martin requested volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. She said the members would be identifying funding options for training and implementation of recommendations and would also be evaluating the online resources page and suggesting helpful funding links. She added that the subcommittee would need input from the other subcommittees on what the needs are so it can gather information for the legislative agenda and develop a budget request.

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING EXPANDING ONLINE RESOURCES:** Hardcastle pointed out that the online resources page on the CLASS Web site had expanded from just a handful of links to dozens over the past few months. He said resources would continue to be added as they are identified. He asked members to suggest any helpful resources they come across and added that e-mails would be sent to the task force about additions to the Web page.

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING PROACTIVE CLASS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR 2009:** Hardcastle noted that the "guns on campus" issue dominated the task force's work with the Legislature during the 2008 session. He added that the task force made an excellent effort in responding and that the issue was likely to reappear in 2009. He asked that the subcommittee identify other areas that might require legislative action and/or funding so that the subcommittee liaisons and other State Regents staff could prepare a structured agenda to bring forward to the Legislature. He suggested moving forward as early as October to allow for enough time to make a formal presentation to the Legislature and the governor before the legislative session even begins.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** Tom McDaniel said that the independent institutions were very pleased to be included in the task force and asked that the task force explore issues with privacy and institutions communicating with each other about possible "problem" students. Johnson asked if the Laws and Policies subcommittee could look into a mechanism that would both accomplish safety and security and respect students' privacy. Gollahalli said the subcommittee would study the issue.

Berkenbile asked if the task force should communicate with the federal government about its recommendations and to ask for assistance. Johnson agreed that would make sense.

**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:** Hardcastle suggested meetings in October, December and February and said he would e-mail the task force in the next two weeks to suggest dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.