SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 2, 2008

[In these minutes: Report from the Department of Public Safety, Parking &
Transportation Update]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the
University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these
minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or
the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Jeffrey Wencl, chair, Thomas Bilder, Kendre Turonie, Iraj Bashiri, Jean-
Marie Del-Santo, Jennifer Engler, Catherine Solheim, Curt Baker, Eric Brown, Maureen
Kunkler, Olga Zakharenko

REGRETS: Nathan Pelzer, Amelious Whyte, Kim Roufs, Hilary Ploeckelmann, Tina
Falkner, Jerry Rinehart

ABSENT: Andy Howe, Megan Hayes, Ian McConnell, Caroline Younts

OTHERS ATTENDING: Gabriele Schmiegel

GUESTS: Bob Baker, director, Parking & Transportation; Troy Buhta, police lieutenant;
Terry Cook, director, Emergency Management, Greg Hestness, police chief

I). Jeffrey Wencl called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

II). Jeffrey Wencl welcomed today's guests from the Department of Public Safety. Chief
Hestness stated that today's presentation would provide information about the
University's public safety efforts. He began by introducing himself, Terry Cook, director,
Emergency Management, and Lieutenant Buhta. Information about how the University's
Department of Public Safety is organized was shared with the committee. The
Department of Public Safety has 159 FTEs, which includes 65 student positions. The
Department of Public Safety is made up of three departments, which were created from a
variety of departments in 2002 to provide a more cohesive, less fragmented approach to
public safety at the University:
   1. Police
   2. Emergency Management
   3. Central Security

The department's budget for this fiscal year is approximately $13.3 million. Budget
funding sources include:
   • O & M – 72%
   • Fees for services – 19%
   • Fines – 6%

- Other – 3%

Emergency Management has 4 FTEs, all of who are certified by the State of Minnesota. Currently, the University has 45 police officers, but Chief Hestness noted that he has been authorized to have 50 officers this year, and three additional officers next year.

Public Safety falls under the auspices of University Services, which Vice President Kathleen O'Brien oversees. University Services has over 2,200 employees, but when student employees are added in, this number jumps to roughly 3,000 employees. The five departments that make up University Services include:
1. Auxiliary Services
2. Capital Planning and Project Management
3. Facilities Management
4. Public Safety
5. University Health and Safety

University Services has both Twin Cities and system-wide responsibilities. UMPD serves not only the Twin Cities campus, but occasionally provides support to the UMM and UMD police departments. Emergency Management and Central Security, on the other hand, serve the Twin Cities campus and coordinate campuses on a regular basis.

Chief Hestness shared the Department of Public Safety's mission. Basically, the department's goals are to make people safe, have them feel safe, and to provide services in a fair, impartial manner.

Examples of strategies and initiatives used to strengthen public safety on campus include:
- Increasing partnerships and communication.
- Increasing training opportunities.
- Pursuing technology advancements.
- Enhancing the University's security infrastructure.
- Strengthening the University's emergency preparedness efforts.

With respect to strengthening the University's emergency preparedness efforts, the Board of Regents has formally adopted NIMS (National Incident Management System) as the University's emergency management system. The State of Minnesota has also adopted this system. NIMS certification by the state has allowed the University to pursue emergency plan preparedness grants. Emergency Management has been very successful in securing grant money for various emergency preparedness initiatives. For example, Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Academic Health Center (AHC), has been working on plans for health emergencies such as the pandemic flu.

Chief Hestness noted that following the Virginia Tech incident last year, the University evaluated its emergency communication system. A new resource that came out of this review was TXT-U Emergency Notification (http://www1.umn.edu/prepared/txtu/).

The Emergency Management Department has a mobile command post. This was the University's operations base at the scene of the 35W bridge collapse. This mobile command post is equipped with inter-operable 800 MHz radios and wireless IT. Chief Hestness noted that the University acquired this re-purposed State of Minnesota HazMat response vehicle for free.

Major Department of Emergency Management accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Homeland Security approval for the University's Emergency Operations Plan.
- Receiving almost $1 million in federal and state public safety and Homeland Security grants since 2002 for various emergency preparedness initiatives:
  - 800 MHz conversion.
  - Acquisition of a HazMat Identification System.
  - A deep tunnel surveillance system (9 miles of tunnels equipped with roughly 30 cameras).
  - Acquisition of metal detectors and 1st Responder equipment.
- Creation of the Emergency Management Policy Committee.
- Development of an Emergency Management Training plan.

Emergency Management is dedicated to help the University and state prepare for, respond to, recover from, and reduce the effects of intentional, accidental, or national disasters. In addition, Emergency Management directed a post-Virginia Tech review of its Emergency Notification System. This review uncovered that there are four essential components to a good emergency notification system:

- Email and voice mail
- Weather Alert Radios
- Text message capability
- Public address systems

A good system needs to have built-in redundancies to make sure that as few people as possible miss an emergency message.

Strategies to enhance the University's security infrastructure include, but are not limited to:

- Since 2002, the University has dedicated over $8 million system-wide to enhance its security infrastructure.
- Annual review of risk-based security assessments.
- Examples of projects focused on protecting people, research, and physical assets:
  - System-wide digital surveillance camera conversion.
  - Inclusion of biometrics security (e.g. hand geometry, retinal scan) for high security research labs.
  - Migration to "smart card" readers.
  - Piloting of "intelligent video." (Programmable to observe certain behaviors).

The University's Department of Central Security evaluates, designs, installs, monitors, and maintains a variety of critical infrastructure systems. For example:

- Monitoring services, e.g. surveillance services on the Twin Cities, Duluth, Crookston and Morris campuses; over 100 intercoms and call boxes located throughout the garages, ramps, etc.
- Access control services, e.g. programming of automated building unlocks and lock-ups.
- Consultation services, e.g. facility and site security assessments.
- Security services, e.g. security system installation and support.

The University has a fully licensed police department, which offers the following services:
- Patrol and 911 response
- Community policing
- Investigations
- Traffic safety and enforcement
- 911 dispatch
- Student monitor program

The University's Police Department was established in 1939. Its primary jurisdiction is any property owned, leased or operated by the University, which are many and not necessarily contiguous, e.g. CUHCC. The Police Department has had as many as 70 officers in 1970 and as few as 35 in 1990. In fiscal year 2009, the department has been authorized to have 53 officers.

Increasingly, the Police Department relies on technology to be effective. Examples of technology, data and partnerships that serve to maximize the safety of the University community include:
- Participation in and upgrades to Minneapolis Police records management and reporting system – CAPRS - Computer Assisted Police Records System.
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) – leasing from the Minneapolis Police Department allows for interoperability.
- Emergency communications interoperability – regional 800 MHz system.
- Weekly crime analysis data from Minneapolis Police CODEFOR (Computer Optimized DEployment – Focus On Results) unit.
- Digital audio/visual cameras in all marked vehicles.

Chief Hestness turned member's attention to various diagrams and charts containing statistics on 911 citizen calls for service dating back to 2003, campus crime trends, robberies near the University, etc. He noted that 85% of the offenses on campus were larceny or theft. Last year, there were 619 thefts on campus, which is down from 715 from the previous year and 1263 thefts in 1995. In terms of crimes against people, the University does not have many, and last year this number was down slightly from the previous year, which is good.

Once the Police Department reaches its goal of 50 officers, Chief Hestness indicated that he intends to establish a Community Response Team, which will be made up of a small group of officers that can be relieved of 911 responsibilities to work on emerging crime

patterns by giving them closer attention and to form a stronger liaison with the University and surrounding communities.

In terms of robberies, while there were 190 incidents in 2006, there were 129 in 2007, which represents about a 30% decrease.

Next, Chief Hestness cited examples of what the institution is doing to prevent "active shooter" incidents on campus:

- Provide staff, faculty, and parents with information about the early warning signs of students in distress.
- Establish the Provosts Committee on Student Mental Health.
- Create a Behavior Intervention Team (BIT).
- Establish the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) within UMPD.

Generally, an "active shooter" is seeking to cause maximum harm, and typically the person is not amenable to negotiation. Since the Columbine High School massacre, police departments and campus police departments in particular, have come to the realization that action needs to be taken immediately in order to contain the situation and stop the harm. Normally, police advise victims confronted by an armed party to comply with the perpetrator's demands, but in an active shooter situation this advice does not hold true. Instead, people need to think about actions they can take to save themselves. Having said this, UMPD in conjunction with University Relations is developing a PowerPoint presentation focusing on how to respond in an active shooter situation. Discussions are taking place on how best to disseminate this information.

Last August, noted Chief Hestness, the Emergency Management Policy Committee conducted a tabletop discussion with University leadership to layout what would need to be done in the immediate aftermath of an active shooter or other terrorist event to help the campus recover. The University has put policies in place that give appropriate University personnel the ability to issue emergency messages. Chief Hestness added that with the expiration of the Assault Rifle Ban, and the increased availability of assault rifles, police departments are arming, and training their officers to use civilian versions of military rifles in order to be competitive.

Chief Hestness reported that the University is in the midst of its biggest physical growth period since the West Bank was built. Given this, President Bruininks has requested a public safety plan be developed to address this growth. Chief Hestness stated that it is his goal to increase the number of officers to 55 by 2009, which coincides with the opening of the football stadium. In addition, he intends to create a Community Response Team. The team would be comprised of 1 sergeant and 4 officers who work predominantly nights and focus of investigating crime patterns. In addition, members of this team would work to be more visible to the University community.

Jeffrey Wencl thanked Chief Hestness for his presentation. Next, the meeting was opened up for questions and comments:

- Why is there so little mention of the St. Paul campus in this report? Chief Hestness noted that the St. Paul campus is a much quieter campus in terms of

crime than the East Bank. Of the offenses reported on campus, 7% took place on the West Bank, approximately 85% on the East Bank, and roughly 8% took place on the St. Paul campus. Chief Hestness monitors the shift reports for the St. Paul, West Bank and East Bank campuses daily.

- If a person uses a cell phone on campus and calls 911 will they be calling UMPD or the Minneapolis Police Department? GPS directs calls from campus to UMPD stated Chief Hestness. Terry Cook added that if a campus call is inadvertently directed to the Minneapolis Police Department, it will be quickly transferred without delay to UMPD.

Jeffrey Wencl thanked UMPD representatives for their informative presentation.

III). Jeffrey Wencl welcomed Bob Baker, director, Parking and Transportation, who was invited to provide the committee with a light rail update. Mr. Baker began by noting that the University is very transit oriented. Currently, over 66% of the people coming to campus use transportation other than a single-occupancy vehicle, e.g. walking, biking, busing. Twenty thousand students have a U-Pass and over 2,000 faculty and staff use the corresponding MetroPass.

It is projected that 1/3 of all daily Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) riders will be from the University. The University is an integral, key-player in the success of the CCLRT project.

The 4 CCLRT project principles include:
1. Optimal line operation.
2. Safety is fundamental to line operation. (10,000 students, faculty, staff and visitors cross 4 – 5 Washington Avenue intersections every hour).
3. The Corridor should strengthen community and economic development while reducing impact to the urban environment. (The CCLRT project is expected to cost $1 billion, and is the single largest public improvement project in the history of the State of Minnesota).
4. The functionality and aesthetics of the campus must be enhanced.

Initially, the CCLRT project was envisioned to run in a tunnel under Washington Avenue, however, it was deemed that even a value-engineered tunnel would not meet the Cost Effective Index (CEI) requirement for Federal funding. Having said this, four studies over the past 20 years (not commissioned by the University) all concluded that LRT at-grade with traffic on Washington Avenue would not work. As recently as February 2008, a study indicated that an at-grade alignment on Washington Avenue with traffic would generate LOS E and F (gridlock conditions) at key intersections. Mr. Baker stated that the University cannot accept an at-grade alignment that includes traffic, buses, and LRT on Washington Avenue because it would be impossible for Washington Avenue to function effectively. In order for Washington Avenue to function effectively all traffic must come off.

The Met Council voted on February 27 to recommend the project run at-grade along Washington Avenue with a pedestrian or transit mall spanning from Oak Street to the bridgehead (no traffic). This strategy would require additional mitigations in order to manage the displaced Washington Avenue traffic. It is the University's position, noted Mr. Baker, that the CCLRT project needs to identify problems, and find viable solutions to these problems.

Mr. Baker turned members' attention to a map, showing:
- Proposed LRT route.
- Alternate LRT alignment.
- Alternative River Road alignment.
- Proposed road/new alignment.
- LRT pedestrian mall.
- Route of the University operated shuttle service.

Besides traffic mitigation issues, the University, noted Mr. Baker, is very concerned about whether the large, very strong, research magnet under the sidewalk in front of Hasselmo Hall will interfere with the electrical force coming from the train. Experts in Seattle, Denver, St. Louis and Paris are being consulted to determine how to shield the train from this magnet and vice versa. If a solution cannot be found, the magnet will have to be moved at a cost of $4 – $6 million. Also, because there is no place to put the magnet, a new building would need to be built to house it.

In addition to planning for a pedestrian mall on Washington Avenue, a simultaneous study of a northerly alignment is being conducted. Members viewed a map illustrating where this route would run. The University is funding a study to look at the Northern Alignment given that it offers several advantages including reducing project costs, shortening ride time, averting negative impacts to Washington Avenue traffic, avoiding negative impacts to the hospital, clinics and surrounding neighborhoods and businesses, and serving the future growth of the East Gateway District.

The Northern Alignment would cross the Mississippi River on Bridge 9, and travel to the East Gateway District via the railroad corridor. The University believes the Northern Alignment may very well be the best option, however, it may not fit into the current project timeline, and, if determined to be the preferred route, it may delay the project, which would add time and cost to the project.

A preliminary feasibility study on the Northern Alignment will be completed by April 9th, and shared with the Corridor Management Committee. Then, by mid May, the full study will be completed. Results of this study will undoubtedly influence which option should be pursued.

Students voiced their support of the Northern Alignment option.

Jeffrey Wencl thanked Mr. Baker for his presentation.

IV). Hearing no further business, Jeffrey Wencl adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate