Memorandum

July 27, 2011

TO: Dr. Elizabeth Griego
    Vice President for Student Life

FROM: Mike Belcher
    Director of Public Safety

Subject: 2006-2007 Department of Public Safety Program Review Progress on Recommendations

This memorandum serves as a progress report on the major, (highest) minor (other priority and issues) a recommendations that were made by the program review committee in 2006-2007 for the Department of Public Safety. A status has been given to each recommendation. The recommendations provided by the committee served to improve the programs, services and organizational activities of the department.

Highest Priorities:

1. Addition of Staff

The committee recommends employment of two additional sworn officers in order to better protect campus. One officer on duty for a campus of this size is unacceptable and places the University community in jeopardy. Although several interviewees within Public Safety recommended additional dispatchers, we do not see this as a high priority at this time. Should kiosks be considered for entry into campus, we support the additional hiring of Community Service officers to staff these entry and exit kiosks.

President DeRosa authorized the hiring of two additional police officers shortly after this recommendation came out. The department currently staffs nine sworn positions.

2. Surveillance

Surveillance is inadequate at Pacific. Parking lots are especially vulnerable, as documented statistically. We recommend pilot surveillance cameras in the following areas: Lot 7; the swimming pool lot; and the lot behind Spanos Center with access on Mendocino Avenue. Should these be successful in warding off car burglaries and thefts, additional cameras should be added in other parking areas, such as Stagg Stadium Lot, where students currently are reluctant to leave cars overnight.

Public Safety is divided among dispatchers on the capability of watching cameras while on duty at the main console. We suggest experimenting with this in Public Safety, purchasing cameras that are motion-sensitive at night for the targeted pilot parking lots. If staffing among dispatchers is an issue, we
recommend employment of more S.T.R.I.P.E.S. personnel or the addition of non-sworn personnel to help with surveillance. Should kiosks be constructed at the Pershing Avenue entrance on Larry Heller Drive and the main entrance on Pacific Avenue, we suggest utilizing kiosk staff at night to monitor the cameras in specific lots.

*The department was part of a committee which made the same recommendations. Cameras were installed in lot #7 which is located behind the fraternities. This has reduced the incidents of theft significantly since its installation. Cameras were also installed in lot #3 which is accessed through Mendocino Ave. Cameras were not installed in the lot by the pool since the number of incidents were low but additional cameras were installed behind Pacific House which was experiencing a significant number of thefts.*

3. **Lighting Pacific is generally well lit, but there are gaps.** The most serious is along the levee, along the footbridge, under Pacific Avenue, and under Pershing Avenue. Although jurisdiction under the two main bridges over the Calaveras rests with the City of Stockton, unless Pacific takes the initiative, the Committee fears this will continue to be neglected. Joggers, pedestrians and bicycle riders are in harm’s way given the transient population trends and the dark corridors presently on- and off of University property along the levee. Additional areas needing reassessment include the center of South Campus between the College of Education and the new Biology Building, as well as along all natural corridors running between student residential areas and classroom buildings, and the University Library.

*Each year the department walks with student representatives of AsUOP and other divisions on campus. Each year recommendations are made to improve lighting. Since this report was submitted, additional lighting has been added to these areas of concern along with upgrades to existing lighting. This is done in partnership with Physical Plant and Risk Management.*

4. **Computers in Public Safety Vehicles** Currently Public Safety has a plan to add laptops to all University-owned police cars. We feel this is essential and should be expedited in order for officers to have as much information as possible on suspects, situations, and to better judge and communicate with other police units.

*Public Safety applied for and received 15 used Toughbook computers from the City of Stockton. They were assigned to officers and the police vehicles were upgraded to allow officers to do reports in their vehicles as well as in university buildings.*

5. **Expansion of S.T.R.I.P.E.S.** (Student Escort and Area Security Program) S.T.R.I.P.E.S. has been successful and needs to be expanded with addition of more vehicles (golf carts), one of which needs to carry at least six persons. Patrolling, as well as escorting, needs to be expanded as a regular part of S.T.R.I.P.E.S.‘ duties.

*As a result of this report, the S.T.R.I.P.E. unit was redeveloped into a cadet unit to give students better training and more exposure to law enforcement careers and to develop their awareness. A six person*
cart was purchased but Public Safety found students have a difficult time operating the vehicle in confined places so it is used during larger events. An additional front facing four seat cart was also purchased.

6. Bike Patrols

Many campuses rely heavily on bicycle patrols, which are cost effective, efficient, and highly visible. Presently bike patrols are almost non-existent at Pacific even though four bicycles are owned by the Department, two police-ready. Between 1 September, 2004 and 31 May, 2005, the Department spent only 50.33 hours on bicycles. We recommend an active program to expand bike patrols, recognizing this requires supplemental uniform allowance and training for officers. Our collective belief is that students and staff will be more comfortable interacting with Pacific police officers on bicycles than those in vehicles, especially in the middle of campus. Bike patrols have the potential to create a better sense of—community policing, one of Chief Belcher’s primary goals.

Several officers have attended bicycle patrol school and we have another that will be attending bicycle patrol training school. This will allow us to train officers here at Pacific. Officers are now assigned to work bicycle patrol rather than voluntarily work the assignment. S.T.R.I.P.E. cadets have also been assigned to work bike patrol after training. Public Safety also purchased two T3 Motion Electric Chariots for officers to use during good weather.

Other Priorities and Issues:

7. One-Card System

The University is already implementing this program of a one-card entry system on buildings. As this moves forward, we recommend transferring some of the lock up and openings to non-sworn personnel within Public Safety. A large percentage of time is presently spent performing this activity, which has benefits of police being—on the spot, but it takes them away from active patrolling by vehicle much of the time.

Public Safety continually works with Risk Management to identify funding and buildings to convert to the one card system. All new construction has one card access built into the construction planning. Since this report was issued, several buildings have been converted including Bernard School of Education, WPC, School of Business, Pacific Theater, Housing and Greek Life, Athletics, Hand Hall, Library, Buck Hall and several others.

8. Detoxication

Facility on North Campus The present system of arresting individuals suspected of intoxication and transporting them to County Jail for detoxication is inefficient and puts the campus at risk when officers are away from campus. We recommend two solutions: First, breathalyzers should be explored and used by officers who suspect individuals of intoxication. If legally intoxicated, the University should insist that the City of Stockton intervene, process, and transport those arrested to County Jail. This seems feasible given the new Stockton P.D. sub-station on North Campus. For individuals suspected of being under the
influence of alcohol, but not legally intoxicated, a new Detoxification Facility should be considered for North Campus. This would require medical supervision, but would improve public relations with students, their parents, and others presently being arrested but not charged at County Jail.

_We found the establishment of a Detoxification Center on campus was not cost effective and had some liability issues associated with it._

### 9. Policy Clarifications

The University needs to develop a policy on Public Safety jurisdiction off-campus. Clery Act boundaries are vague and need some definition. Many campuses, such as the University of Southern California, have precise agreements with their local municipal police force as to how far off-campus university police will answer calls (four blocks in the case of U.S.C. and L.A.P.D.). Pacific has clarity in its policy. Officers on watch currently answer any call where University students are involved.

For reasons of risk-management, public safety, and potential law suits for violation of civil rights, the University needs to determine where University police should intervene on private property off-campus and where this should be the responsibility of the City of Stockton.

_A new Memorandum of Understanding was authored and signed 2011 which clearly identifies Public Safety’s boundaries and their responsibilities._

### 10. Use of Public Safety in Transportation of Students for Medical Issues

The present policy of police officers personally driving students to and from medical facilities or appointments needs evaluation. Chief Belcher recently summarized the unwritten policy as follows: The current policy is that if a student is not well, an officer responds and evaluates. If it is a back or limb problem or breathing problem, Cowell Wellness will not look at them so we would call an ambulance to transport. If they have a stomach ache or something else that Cowell handles, we would consult with their staff and if acceptable, transport in our vehicle. (Belcher to Swagerty, e-mail communication, December 19, 2006) In the process of the review, we learned that out of sincere interest in students’ well being, Chief Belcher has taken students to medical appointments beyond Cowell, transporting them personally to a hospital or doctor’s office. Beyond the risk-management issue of a potential liability against the University should the student be injured in an accident, the Committee is concerned with the time spent away from campus by officers-on-duty. A Community Service Officer or Student Victim Advocate with proper licensing and insurance might be an alternative to the present system.

_Public Safety still provides transportation to students in need on a case by case incident always ensuring there is sufficient coverage on campus. We are currently working with the administration to develop a university transportation system which would accommodate students with transportation issues._

### 11. Grievance Process
Presently, there is no internal grievance process for students or staff who feel their rights have been abused by Public Safety short of direct complaints to the Chief or routing through Stockton Police Department’s Internal Affairs. Student Life needs to consider a system that functions parallel with Judicial Affairs in giving individuals an alternative to filing a formal complaint with the City of Stockton when they feel an officer has treated them unfairly. We have no solution here, but it is a policy area deserving more study.

Public Safety developed a grievance form that is online for those who are concerned with the actions of the department. Hard copy forms are also available at Human Resources, the Library and other departments on campus. If a complaint is filed, Stockton Police Internal Affairs, university of the Pacific Human Resources and Student Life are advised of the complaint and presented with the findings. Complainants who are not satisfied with the investigation outcome have recourse through each of the listed departments.

12. Public Relations Function of the Public Safety Department

Throughout the process of this review, the Committee has been impressed with the level of dedication of Chief Belcher to serving the University community as educator and mentor, as well as primary safety officer. His devotion is an unusual commitment and vision. Nevertheless, there are problems in perception among students and some staff as to the purposes and goals of Public Safety.

The University needs to enhance opportunities for officers to meet students on a casual basis such as in dining halls. We also recommend appointment by the Chief of specific staff within his Department as liaison-officers with specific groups or spatial areas on campus. The Department would like to give more seminars and have a larger voice in education on campus. We agree and suggest formal involvement in introducing safety issues during Freshman Orientation, with a follow-up reorientation during students’ third year, or as they approach legal drinking age. As a matter of courtesy and to provide incentive for officers to interact more frequently and meaningfully with students and staff, we suggest granting privileges of access to use of the Baun Fitness Center (without charge) and a schedule of University-supported meals in student dining areas.

Each year Public Safety hosts a back to school barbecue with student staff from housing. This allows officers and students to get to know each other and understand each member’s role on campus and how they can work together. The department’s event coordinator now attends each planning session for student events. This allows the department to identify potential liability issues. The department now works with the student to work around these issues rather than become a barrier which develops a better relationship between students and Public Safety.

Public Safety opened up two substations on campus. One in the library and at the front counter in the DeRosa Center. Officers are also assigned lap top computers. Officers now complete their reports in the field so they are visible to students. This provides a greater sense of safety on campus and makes the officers available to students to answer any questions they may have.
Public Safety opened up the only 24/7 study hall on campus where a student can go to study in a safe environment. This room can seat up to 30 students and is usually filled during mid term and final exams.

Public Safety has developed a Rape Aggression Defense program where students can enroll for free and learn ways to better protect themselves. This provides interaction between students and Public Safety officers.

Public Safety developed two programs. The first is the Stop, Walk and Talk program where officers walk into the academic and administrative buildings. They meet with students, staff and faculty for a casual meeting. This allows the campus community to communicate any safety concerns they may have and allows them to meet Public Safety members. The department also has developed the officer liaison program. Each officer is assigned to a residential hall and is required to walk through the hall on a nightly basis. They are also required to collaborate with the housing staff in their assigned hall to put on at least one program each semester.

Public Safety is part of the new student orientation process making presentations before parents and students. They also attend the question and answer forum so new students may ask questions. Public Safety also makes similar presentations each month to newly hired staff.

Public Safety attends student functions, meetings and other student gatherings each year. This past year, officers made appearances at Welcome Back Weekend, M.O.V.E., Midnight Breakfast, Pacific House Barbeque, Halloween event, Take Back the Night, President’s Fireside Chat, Spring Break Las Vegas Trip, Tiger Nites, Townhall Meetings.

Each year Public Safety works with the Student Advocate to host programs such as driving and drinking, texting while driving, sexual assault awareness and other safety programs such as the A.s.U.O.P. safety walk. Public Safety Officers ride the San Joaquin Transit Bus when the students attend Miracle Mile social events. Public Safety attended an off campus forum between a homeowners association and student residents that were threatened with eviction. Public Safety was able to provide the homeowners association with information that prevented the eviction.

Officers negotiated for the use of Baun Fitness and were awarded the right as part of their contract to use the fitness center. Officers routinely use the center to maintain their physical fitness. It also has served as a way for students to see the officers out of their uniforms and as someone trying to keep in shape.