RESOLUTION REGARDING THE COMMISSIONING OF SWORN OFFICERS
BY THE UNIVERSITY PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Approved by the Special Committee on Campus Public Safety
December 3, 2014

Approved by the Full Board
December 11, 2014

BACKGROUND

A. Portland State University is currently served by a Campus Public Safety Office (CPSO) that provides basic public safety services to the campus. CPSO officers are “special campus security officers” under Oregon state law. As such, CPSO officers are not police officers under state law and possess only limited law enforcement authority. CPSO officers’ geographic authority is limited to the boundaries of the University’s porous and noncontiguous campus. In addition, such officers may not issue violation citations, apply for search warrants, engage in community caretaking, perform mental health holds, perform off-campus investigations, require an individual to submit to an involuntary detox, or perform other customary duties of police officers. CPSO officers are not eligible for Oregon police training or certification.

B. Portland State University is unique among large urban universities in the United States, and unique among large universities in Oregon, in that the University lacks access to sworn, dedicated university police officers. All other members of the Urban 21, a coalition of urban-serving universities across the country, are served by dedicated university police officers, as are Oregon State University, the University of Oregon and Oregon Health and Sciences University.

C. Currently, the Portland State University campus is policed almost exclusively by the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). The University is within PPB’s Central Precinct, which is a 41 square mile area of the City of Portland. The availability of a police response to the campus at any particular time is dependent on limited staffing and other demands existing in the Central Precinct at the time, which often results in considerable wait times to calls for a police response. PPB has conveyed its support for this Resolution.

D. In the Spring of 2013, President Wim Wiewel convened a Task Force on Campus Safety to make recommendations regarding growing campus safety concerns and potential improvements to the University’s response to criminal activities. The task force issues its final report in November 2013.

E. A key conclusion of the task force is that current “limitations on CPSO authority, jurisdiction and capability are the most concerning safety issue on campus.” The task force concluded that “the most ideal campus safety staffing model is one that allows PSU access to dedicated professionals, who are part of the PSU ethos and community, who have sworn officer status” and recommended that PSU “explore ways to ensure access to sworn officers who are appropriately trained in campus policing and available on-site to the PSU campus community.”

F. Subsequently, the University explored various options to implement the task force’s recommendation, including contracting with the Portland Police Bureau, Oregon State Police or Oregon Health and Sciences University for the provision of a dedicated campus police force. Following those consultations, it was determined that creation of a University Police Department is the best and most viable option to meet the safety needs of the campus.

G. The Portland State University Board of Trustees is authorized by Oregon Revised Statutes 352.118 to establish a university police department and to commission employees as police
officers with all of the privileges and immunities of police officers under the laws of the State of Oregon.

H. The Board established a Special Committee on Campus Public Safety to consider the recommendation that the University commission and employ university police officers.

I. The Committee held three public meetings, heard several hours of public comment, received numerous letters from members of the campus community, and reviewed over 200 comments submitted electronically. The Committee has recommended this Resolution to the Board for approval.

**RESOLUTION**

**Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Board of Trustees, that:**

1. The Portland State University Public Safety Department is authorized to employ and commission sworn police officers, with all of the privileges and immunities customarily provided to sworn police officers, in a manner consistent with Oregon law, subject to the terms and conditions of this Resolution.

2. The University Public Safety Department is to operate based on a philosophy of university- and community-oriented policing, which focuses on building ties and working closely with members of the Portland State University community. The department is to be guided by best practices and is to work with other student- and community-focused University departments to develop and foster the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques that address public safety concerns in a manner that focuses on dialogue and defusing situations.

3. The University Public Safety Department is to be a bifurcated department, with both sworn, armed police officers and unsworn, unarmed public safety officers. The University Public Safety Department is to maintain an adequate number of unsworn, unarmed public safety officers and not rely unnecessarily on sworn, armed police officers.

4. Prior to the deployment of sworn, armed police officers, the University shall develop a University Public Safety Department Management and Implementation Plan. The University Public Safety Department Management and Implementation Plan is to be developed with the assistance of an Implementation Advisory Committee, which is to include faculty, staff and student representatives and is to be chaired by a dean of the University. The Board will appoint at least one liaison to the Implementation Advisory Committee.

5. The Implementation Advisory Committee shall consider and make recommendations on any matters it determines to be relevant, which are to include, at a minimum:
   
   a. The recruitment and hiring of a diverse and well-qualified pool of candidates to be University police officers.

   b. The training of University police officers. In addition to basic police training through the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, the Implementation Advisory Committee is to consider and make recommendations regarding specialized training on topics including:
      
      i. the specific needs of effective university-oriented policing,
      
      ii. cultural competency,
      
      iii. unconscious bias,
      
      iv. mental health issues and interacting with persons with disabilities, and
      
      v. alternatives to the use of lethal force for ensuring public safety.

   c. The creation of a University Public Safety Oversight Committee, which includes faculty, staff and student representatives, and which is authorized to receive and act on
complaints regarding the University Public Safety Department’s policies or the actions of its officers;
d. A complaint process regarding the University Public Safety Department;
e. The appropriate use and implementation of relevant innovations, such as police officer body cameras;
f. Proposed policies governing the University Public Safety Department, including policies regarding the use of force that demonstrate a high regard for the value of human life and prioritize the use of the least amount of force reasonably necessary in light of the facts and circumstances;
g. A schedule for the implementation and incorporation of sworn police officers into the University Public Safety Department; and
h. The development of performance indicators to enable future assessment of the effectiveness of the new University Public Safety Department.

6. The Implementation Advisory Committee is to continue to make recommendations and provide oversight regarding the University Public Safety Department until a University Public Safety Oversight Committee is established and has begun meeting.

7. The Board recognizes that various campus constituencies have urged that the Board and University consider other approaches and innovations to enhance public safety in ways that do not rely on sworn, armed police officers, such as the establishment of trained student patrols, bystander intervention training and greater focus on nonviolent dispute resolution. The commissioning of university police officers and the consideration and implementation of other approaches and innovations to enhance public safety are not mutually exclusive. University police officers are only one component of a strong and student-focused safety net. The Implementation Advisory Committee is encouraged to consider such other approaches and innovations as it deems appropriate and may include recommendations regarding such matters in either the University Public Safety Department Management and Implementation Plan or in separate recommendations to the University Public Safety Department.

8. The Special Committee on Campus Public Safety intends to remain engaged and informed as this Resolution is implemented and will remain in place until the Implementation and Management Plan is complete and until the University Public Safety Oversight Committee is established and has begun meeting. The Committee will provide guidance to the Implementation Advisory Committee and provide updates to the full Board.

9. At its March and June 2015 meetings, the full Board will be updated and provided an opportunity to discuss the development of the University Public Safety Department Management and Implementation Plan and the implementation of this Resolution. The Board is required to approve the Plan prior to the deployment of sworn, armed officers. For at least the next five years thereafter, the Board is to be updated at least semi-annually regarding the implementation of this Resolution and its impact on the campus and its students, faculty and staff.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 11, 2014

[Signature]
Secretary to the Board