

BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6 p.m. Charlestown Campus – Art Gallery

Minutes

Present:	Sondos Alamos Antoine Junior Melay Colleen Richards Powell (by telephone) Richard Walker, III Amy Young (by telephone) Hung Goon Cathy Guild, James Klocke, Marita Rivero Carmen Vega-Barachowitz William Walczak	President Eddinger Provost Canniff Vice President Pitcher Assistant Secretary Ambrose
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Absent: James Klocke

I. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Chair Walczak, First Vice-Chair Young called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

- None

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Study Session: Arming of Campus Police

President Eddinger reviewed information on the arming of the Campus Police that had been presented at two earlier meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Currently, Campus Police are not armed. All Campus Police officers are sworn officers and are certified to carry a firearm. The College has mutual aid agreements with the State Police, City of Boston Police and the City of Chelsea Police. The average response time for one of these units to arrive at the College is 3 to 15 minutes; the average incident lasts 5-12 minutes. BHCC officers do not actively engage with the threat; they monitor video and access control and relate information to responding law enforcement agencies. They have limited engagement as first responders.

President Eddinger reviewed the policy requirements for arming. A license to carry firearms would have to be authorized by the Boston/Chelsea Police Departments. The College would need a policy for the acquisition and safe storage of weapons and ammunition; a policy on the "Use of Force"; a policy for training and career development and a policy for screening and testing new hires.

The Campus Police Department has proposed training and qualifications as follows. The College would maintain a philosophy of community policing. The Deputy Chief and one Sergeant are Certified Firearms Safety Instructors; the Deputy Chief would be the Department Armorer. Officers would undergo screening and training in the following

areas: psychological evaluation specific to firearms; license to carry; 40 hours of firearms training (the MPTC standard is 20 hours); MILO: use of force and tactical judgment; handgun retention/enhanced defensive tactics; de-escalation; anti-bias; mental illness and active shooter.

In Massachusetts Public Higher Education, 7 of the 15 community colleges are armed; 4 are pending and 4 are unarmed; at the State Universities, 8 are armed and 1 is unarmed. All five campuses of the University of Massachusetts have armed campus police officers.

In response to a question posed at an earlier meeting about the prevalence of armed police officers on community college campuses outside of Massachusetts, President Eddinger presented some examples; there is no unified survey data on this subject. President Eddinger looked at states with the largest number of community colleges: Texas (70), Florida (28) and California (112). Texas and Florida have open carry laws; in Miami-Dade Community College in Florida, all five campuses are armed. In California, community colleges in Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego are armed; San Francisco's 12 community colleges, by contrast, have no police and rely on unarmed security and mutual aid.

In New England, the College looked at differences between rural and urban areas. In New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine and Vermont, no community colleges have armed campus police officers.

President Eddinger also reviewed the upward trend in active shooter incidents as reported by the FBI and the Department of Justice and noted that 25% of incidents occurred in educational settings (K-12 and higher education). Nationally, the number of armed officers on college campuses grew from 68% to 75% over the same period (2000-2014).

President Eddinger summarized the points for consideration which came from the campus survey, presentations and data gathering. Those in favor of having armed campus police officers listed: response speed (30 seconds to 2 minutes; familiarity with campus and personnel; protection of and a tool for officers; campus perception of safety; high percentage of campus support; screening and training; recommended by 2008 DHE study; trends of incidents and trends in arming of campus police. Those who were not in favor cited: philosophical disagreement about firearms; educational environment; adequate training for skill and bias; accidental mishaps with firearms and international students experiencing trauma.

Brian Keyes, Chief of Police for the City of Chelsea was introduced and described the cooperation which exists currently between his officers and BHCC police. For example, BHCC police officers participate in in-service training with Chelsea police officers; training cooperation would increase if BHCC police officers are armed as they would participate in one-on-one firearms training with a qualified instructor.

In response to a question as to what percentage of current BHCC police officers were in favor of becoming armed, Chief Barrows responded that all of his officers were in favor.

President Eddinger noted that, in the event that the decision by the Board of Trustees is in favor of arming the campus police, there would be impact bargaining with both campus unions.

President Eddinger stated that she would draft a resolution for the April 25, 2016 Board of Trustees' meeting which would recommend that BHCC campus police officers be armed.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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