

While there is a rather comprehensive explanation of campus safety issues in the November 9 edition of the University Record (including the complete text of the Task Force Report on Campus Safety, chaired by Music School Dean Paul Boylan), I want to add some of my own comments to the discussion.

First, it is unfortunate that one of the political parties running in last week's MSA elections chose the confusing war cry of "No Cops, No Guns, No Code" as their campaign slogan, since this rather badly distorts the University policy. Let me explain.

As the Task Force on Campus Safety (which included students) noted, crime has become a serious problem on the campus, due in part to our being seriously out of step with every other university in America. We are the only university without campus law enforcement officers...the only one without any set of policies and guidelines for student behavior ("a code")... and we have not taken the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the campus sufficiently seriously in past years. Our crime statistics show it, since they now lead the Big Ten. So too is there great concern on the part of students, faculty, and staff about their safety on campus.

Hence, in consultation with students, faculty, and staff over the past two years, we decided to take a series of steps to build a safer campus... and bring UM into line with every other university in the nation. This is a broad plan ranging from expanded lighting, expanding NiteOwl and SafeWalk, safety education, etc... and the specific actions now underway are explained in some detail in the November 9 edition of the University Record. Part of the plan for enhancement of safety at UM is the expansion of the use of deputized officers for law enforcement on campus, rather than relying exclusively on Ann Arbor Police. The "No Cops" slogan, while catchy, is silly, since we have always had, and will continue to have, cops on campus: Ann Arbor Police, Washtenaw Sheriff's Deputies, and even our own deputized officers (we've had several deputized officers for the past few years).

The "No Guns" slogan is also misleading. In fact, by taking the steps recommended by the Safety Task Force, it is our intent to actually REDUCE the number of guns presently brought onto campus. Unfortunately, we have been encountering an increasing number of armed felonies on campus over the past several years. In the space of a single week in early November, there were three armed assaults on the Central Campus. And many remember the shooting incident in front of the Michigan Union earlier in the fall. To counter this, armed

Ann Arbor Police have been patrolling the Central Campus area for many years. However, the City was unable to provide such patrols in adequate or reliable numbers to deal with the growing crime problem.

The plan we are now putting into place is to utilize instead of armed Ann Arbor Police trained, undeputized (and unarmed) campus safety officers for routine campus patrols and for dealing with routine student matters. We will continue to seek the assistance of Ann Arbor Police to handle student disruptions which grow out of control, as we did last week. In addition, we will be using deputized law enforcement officers ("campus police"), stationed in satellite offices on our various campuses, to respond to calls for assistance in dealing with felonies--just as Ann Arbor Police now attempt to do, with some difficulty and limited effectiveness because of limited resources and limited knowledge of the campus. Here it must be stressed that the deputized officers will deal only with CRIME prevention, not with STUDENT matters. Further, the deputized officers will undergo extensive training to sensitize them to the University environment. Training includes sessions on multicultural relations, gay male and lesbian awareness, free speech issues, and dealing with sexual assault. The efforts of the deputized officers will be used to supplement those of the Ann Arbor Police to reduce crime on campus and the surrounding community.

As to the issue of arming deputized officers, here it should be noted that it is law in most states (including Michigan) that deputized officers while in uniform must carry firearms for self-protection when dealing with felonies. Whether they be Ann Arbor Police, Washtenaw Sheriff's Deputies, Highway Patrol, or deputized campus police, they must be armed. And, if you visit any college campus in America, you will find that ALL uniformed campus police are indeed armed--not for dealing with students, but for protecting themselves when dealing with crime. Michigan will differ from other campuses only in the degree to which we use undeputized, unarmed safety officers for handling routine patrols and student matters, while most other campuses use armed officers for all safety patrols.

We estimate the incremental costs of these safety initiatives--e.g., lighting, deputized officers, education, and so forth--to be in the neighborhood of \$600K to \$800K per year. We believe such additional expenditures are appropriate to achieve a major improvement in campus safety.

Finally, as to the "No Code" issue, I believe that the development of a code of student conduct really is not an issue for the University administration. Rather it is (or should be) a STUDENT issue--and a student responsibility.

Student governments on all other college campuses in America have stepped up to their responsibility for their own citizenship as members of the campus community by developing a set of guidelines for student behavior (e.g., prohibiting assaults, drug sales, arson, etc.), coupled with appropriate sanctions for violating these guidelines (e.g., probation, education, suspension, expulsion). These range from entirely student-enforced honor codes (North Carolina, Virginia, Stanford) to rather detailed policies with Student-Faculty Judiciary bodies (Michigan State, UC-Berkeley, Harvard). Unfortunately, during the student unrest of the 1960s and 1970s, the Michigan student government rejected all such policies, and hence we now have a "no rules of any kind" anarchy on this campus. And, apparently some students wish this rather unusual situation to continue, although it clearly jeopardizes the rights of others on the campus.

In any event, I do not believe it is my role...nor the role of the University administration...to develop such a code. Rather, I believe the STUDENTS themselves should step up to their responsibility to develop a set of such guidelines for student behavior as one of their duties as citizens of the University community. Faculty have such policies. Staff have such policies. And students need to develop such policies to govern themselves.

Sorry for the somewhat longer explanation than I had intended, but it is clear from extensive consultation, surveys, and interactions, that most students, faculty, and staff on campus...and essentially all parents and citizens of this state want the University to be a safe and civil place for learning. As the President of this University I share their desire, and I believe it is my responsibility to work toward that objective.