

**Ad Hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment**  
**Tuesday, December 4, 2007**  
**10:30 AM- 12:30 PM**

**Attendees:**

Kim Tanzer  
Mark Rush  
Sandra Chance  
Mike Seigel  
James Klausner

Steven Hoffstetter  
Lola Bovell  
Leslie Jean

**Invited Guest:**

Jamie Keith

Professor Tanzer called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM

She noted that the committee will submit a report to the President, outlining the committee's progress and future plans by the end of December. The committee will prepare the full report in January, with the possible exception of Tasers.

The committee will further consider the safety of Tasers with the assistance of experts in the medical effects of Tasers and will assess the weight and value of conclusions of reports and studies on Tasers with assistance from an expert in scientific methodology and statistical significance of data.

James Klausner expressed concern that law enforcement use the term "safe" to describe Tasers, yet they are a weapon and the term "safe" is not appropriate for any weapon. He said that the Taser is a good choice instead of a firearm, but the committee should consider whether it should be used for detaining a known unarmed individual. Mike Seigel and Mark Rush expressed their views that nothing is without some risk and, from the information they have seen, the only scientific study shows that Tasers result in less injury to unarmed individuals than the alternatives, i.e., clubs and pepper spray. Everyone agreed that expert advice would be helpful. Police Stump is also available to meet with any committee members who may have missed parts of her presentation.

The committee will consider what risks are acceptable in different contexts.

The committee will meet on December 18 to identify experts in the medical effects of Tasers and on scientific methods and statistical significance of study data, possibly an epidemiologist, to evaluate the validity of the methodology and conclusions of the Wake Forest and Amnesty International reports, among others. The committee has specific questions they would like to be answered including:

1. What is the value of the report?
2. How do Tasers work and what are their medical effects?
3. What other circumstances and factors may have contributed to deaths after Taser use?
4. How do the effects on people of Tasers compare with the effects on people of gun shots, pepper-spray, baton strikes, or physical restraint by fists, pressure, etc.?

The committee recognizes that the University is an educational institution and needs to foster safety and that police are charged with this responsibility and with responding to conduct, not speech. Police are the only members of the University community with training and authority to physically address dangerous and potentially dangerous conduct and are often the only individuals willing to intervene when words do not solve a disturbance. The committee will consider in what contexts Tasers are most appropriate at a university, but also discussed the need for the police to exercise their judgment when safety is at issue.

The committee will also host another public forum as soon as possible after the draft report is compiled to receive community input.

The committee will ask Patricia Telles Irvin, Chief Stump and Beth Waltrip to provide drafts of their recommended enhancements of events protocols and policies and clarifications of the UF police department's use of force document so efforts are not duplicated and the committee may give its feedback.

Jamie Keith will find and distribute any ancillary materials that are provided to students concerning the student conduct code and faculty and staff conduct code information.

Kim Tanzer suggested that she compile an initial draft of the progress report to the President, which will identify the topics in the full report to be covered by members of the committee. The committee members will read the draft and bring their comments to the next meeting on December 18. Drafts of each portion of the full report are due a few weeks after the beginning of the spring semester. The committee will begin meeting again after the first of the year.

Kim Tanzer made the following assignments for sections of the full report:

Preamble - Kim Tanzer and Leslie Jean

Education and Training:

Education Training Recommendations For Events (students, staff, faculty, public participants and student, student affairs, faculty, staff and moderator planners and hosts)- Mike Seigel and Steve Hoffstetter with assistance from Patricia Telles Irvin, Chief Stump, Beth Waltrip, and, for legal assistance, Ms. Keith

Whether to Make Policy Change Recommendations, And If So, What:

UF Police protocols recommendations- Mike Seigel

Review of and any recommendations on regulations relating to disruption of events-James Klausner and Steve Hoffstetter

Review of and any recommendations on the student conduct code- Mark Rush and Lola Bovell

Review of and any recommendations on a clear code of behavior for non students-Mark Rush and Lola Bovell

First Amendment and legal considerations in all of the above (including defining “disturbing the peace” and “disturbing a school event” under applicable law) and related recommendations for UF regulations changes - Sandra Chance with assistance from Jamie Keith

The University has a general policy on disruptive behavior found in regulation 6C1-1.008, which applies to faculty, staff and students, as well as a student conduct code, regulation 6C1-4.015-4.016. Ms. Keith pointed out that these regulations have a pretty clear definition of disturbance that the committee might want to review. Ms. Chance suggested that Ms. Keith’s office and she also look at the caselaw on disturbing the peace and disturbing university events.

Ms. Keith offered legal assistance to all of the groups if they need it.

The next and final meeting of the semester will be at 10:30 am on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> in the 123 Tigert Hall Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM