

Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment
Minutes
December 18, 2007
10:30 AM- 12:30 PM
123 Tigert Hall

Attendees:

Kim Tanzer
Rick Yost
Mark Rush
James Klausner
Brian Aungst

Invited guest:

Jamie Lewis Keith

The minutes of the November 27, 2007 meeting were approved.

The committee discussed which types of experts to invite to committee meetings in the spring.

The committee would like to meet with the experts to evaluate the following:

- Legitimacy of the scientific method of the studies on tasers and corresponding weight of the conclusions.
- Medical effects of taser use.

- Possibly, how tasers work including the circuitry of the device, although it was agreed to further consider the need for this level of analysis.

The committee discussed qualities that make a witness credible to ensure that the invited experts are credible sources. Jamie Keith explained the standards used in court. She discussed the follow up she had done at the request of the committee to find both plaintiffs and defense experts or experts who have not been retained by either. She noted that scientists whose studies are done before being retained by defendants or plaintiffs and who use sound scientific methods appear most neutral.

The committee discussed that principal investigators of the Wake Forest report were not working for plaintiffs or defendants when they conducted their study and have emergency room medical expertise on taser effects. At the committee's request, Jamie Keith will contact Dr. Bill Bozeman to see if he is willing to talk to the committee as an expert on the medical effects of tasers.

The committee discussed identifying a university expert on assessing the scientific method of taser studies. Doug Barrett was asked for possible experts. The committee reviewed the possible bio-statistics/epidemiology experts at the university, both those who were recommended by Dr. Barrett and some who were suggested by committee members, and decided that Ms. Keith should contact Dr. Betsy Shenkman.

Dr. Klausner suggested that the committee consider recommending the creation of a right to dissent policy.

Jamie Keith gave the committee a letter from the President outlining an additional charge for the committee to assist with the creation of a free speech Web site at UF. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM