Update on President Farish’s Security Enhancement Initiatives

March 10, 2008

On Oct. 30, 2007, Dr. Farish issued an open letter to the greater University community that outlined his plan for enhancing security on campus. It was not that Rowan’s campus was unsafe, but that in the aftermath of the tragic beating death of Donald Farrell by non-student assailants visiting campus, students and employees felt uneasy about their surroundings. In fact, crime had dropped over the past three years, but it was Dr. Farish’s belief that if members of the Rowan community felt unsafe, then it is the responsibility of the University to address those concerns.

Below is a list of the 14 initiatives he outlined and how the University is progressing on implementing each. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Timothy Michener, director of Public Safety, at 856-256-4566 or through michener@rowan.edu.

14–Point Security Enhancement Plan

1. **Increase Security Staff:** Hire additional security staff with the intention of creating a greater sense of presence of security on the campus. These staff will patrol the campus itself, during the evening and nighttime hours, by foot or bicycle, with a special concentration on the parking areas and residence halls.

   **Status:** Completed. Three Security Officers were reclassified to police officers. Two of the officers have already completed the police academy and have started their field training. The third is attending the Camden County Police Academy and will graduate in June, giving Rowan a total of 17 police officers and 18 security officers and guards protecting the campus.

2. **Add more Police Officers:** For the long term, the President will recommend to the Board of Trustees that Rowan hire five additional police officers.

   **Status:** Ongoing. We hired seven security officers who will become police officers as soon as they have completed their probationary period. The new officers will then be sent to the police academy and be required to complete a field training program. I anticipate the new police officers being on patrol by Spring Break of 2009.

3. **Student Community Policing:** Public Safety will provide additional training for the Student Community Policing Practitioners, who currently accompany students to and from campus venues upon request.

   **Status:** In Progress. Public Safety has revamped its training program for the student practitioners. All the SCPPs have undergone self-defense and personal safety training, and will learn more about department policy and procedures, patrol tactics and report writing.

4. **Expand Safe, Walk & Ride Program:** Rowan will expand its 20-year-old escort program, newly renamed Safe Walk & Ride. Students will be able to call Public Safety if they wish to be escorted or driven to and from nearby off-campus residences and the campus itself.
**Status: Completed.** The Safe Walk & Ride Program has been reintroduced to the University community and is operational. Two escort vehicles have been decaled with the name of the program. Each vehicle is equipped with a two-way radio and yellow strobe lighting. The service will be manned by our SCPP and dispatched from the reopened sub-station in Magnolia Hall. The expanded program includes service to off campus residences. The Safe Walk & Ride program runs from 8 p.m. until 3 a.m. Normal patrols handle escort requests that are received at all other times.

5. **Create a Student Patrol Program:** Public Safety will begin a new program called Student Patrol, wherein students will be trained and hired to patrol the campus in uniformed pairs on foot or bicycle.

   **Status: In progress.** A program description and training program has been developed. Students were recruited through the Law/Justice Studies Program. Public Safety partnered with Law and Justice to develop an internship program open to junior and senior law and justice majors. The selection process has been completed and internships offered. The selected students are receiving basic training and will be deployed on March 21st.

6. **K-9 Corps:** Rowan will investigate the creation of a K-9 corps.

   **Status: In progress.** Public Safety has completed an assessment and is in the process of developing the K-9 Unit. The dog handler has been selected. A suitable dog named “Brix” has been purchased. Brix is a 15 month old German Sheppard with a good temperament. The dog will temporarily be kenneled at the Philadelphia Police Academy K-9 training center. Officer Redman and Brix started training on February 25th at the Philadelphia Police Academy. Brix will complete his explosive detection training in time for commencement. The unit will return to the police academy for patrol training and will be active by the start of the Fall 2008 semester.

7. **Evaluate Lighting:** The University will evaluate lighting throughout campus to ensure that it is well lit and act expeditiously to make improvements where necessary.

   **Status: In progress.** Public Safety met with consultants who, among other things, provided suggestions for improving lighting on campus. Facilities Management has developed and is implementing an overall improvement plan based on a prioritized schedule.

8. **Increase Student Programming:** We will significantly increase student-programming funds to allow for more campus events and in that way encourage more students to stay on campus.

   **Status: Ongoing.** The Office of Student Activities and Student Life introduced “Rowan After Hours” for the Spring Semester. This pilot program takes place every Thursday evening from 9pm-1am in the Student Center, with the goal being to provide on-campus activities (free of charge) for our students during peak social hours. An expanded “Friday Night Games” program has also been introduced this semester.

9. **Cameras:** Rowan will continue to assess the feasibility of installing cameras in certain locations on campus.

   **Status: Investigation Continues.** Public Safety is assessing the feasibility of placing cameras in the parking garage and providing a backbone of technology that can support a campus-wide camera system.
10. **Personal Safety Programs:** Public Safety will build on existing personal safety programs, including self-defense classes.

**Status: Programs developed and Available.** Campus Police presented one RAD course (women’s self-defense program) in November, and a second in December. They are also developing a personal safety lecture to be used in Rowan Seminar (first-year student) classes. Since all first-year students must take Rowan Seminar, this would allow Public Safety to present personal safety in small group settings, and eventually to every Rowan Student.

11. **Maximize Coverage:** Public Safety will restructure its shifts temporarily, increasing them from eight hours to 12 hours so there can be more officers on duty during specific peak periods.

**Status: Continuing.** Police officers worked overlapping shifts for four hours of their 12-hour shifts from late October until the semester break. Public Safety will have two extra Rowan Police Officers work from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. seven days a week. Additionally, two Glassboro Police accompany Rowan Police in patrolling campus from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Extra patrols will commence January 21, 2008, and will continue as needed. The new officers will complete their field training program by Spring Break. Seven additional uniformed officers will be on patrol primarily during the hours of 8pm to 4am seven days a week.

12. **Extra County Funding:** The Gloucester County Prosecutor’s Office will provide funding to the Borough of Glassboro to expand police coverage in the vicinity of the campus.

**Status: Funds exhausted.** The Prosecutor’s Office provided funds that paid for party patrols that ran Wednesday through Saturday evenings, September 30 to November 4. Overtime was used to pay for the added coverage at other times.

13. **Class Schedules:** The University will work with the faculty to increase the number of daytime classes to allow students to avoid evening classes if they want.

**Status: There is a task force examining how to best adjust the class schedule.**

14. **Rowan Alert:** The University community will be strongly encouraged to subscribe to the institution’s mass-notification system.

**Status: Ongoing.** Approximately 40 percent of those eligible to subscribe to Rowan Alert are registered with the system. The University plans to begin another marketing campaign in January.

**Additional Progress:**

- Public Safety has ordered 35 emergency blue-light phones—seven to replace older phones and 28 to be installed in new locations. The new phones are scheduled to arrive and should be installed by Spring Break.

- Public Safety met with two consultants who conducted a review of the department to determine whether its size, policies and procedures appropriately meet the needs of a campus of Rowan’s size and type. The department is in the midst of evaluating the findings and implementing suggestions.
• Part I Crime dropped 14.4% in 2007. This is third straight year Part I crime has dropped at Rowan. Part I crimes include: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson.