

Date: November 29, 2007  
To: UNI Campus Community  
Subject: Arming UNI Police

The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, recently approved the request at the three state universities for campus police to be armed while on duty.

A great deal of time and effort went into obtaining feedback about this issue from students, faculty, staff and parents. We had discussions in a number of forums prior to President Allen's recommendation to the Board of Regents to support the arming proposal. It was obvious during those forums that this decision was not without some controversy.

It's important to remember the arming of campus police officers is one part of a larger plan developed by the institutions to ensure safer campus environments. At UNI, these measures include the installation of an electronic rapid notification system, an outdoor loudspeaker notification system, additional counselors, additional police officers, campus-wide education sessions about critical incidents, and a transparent review of Department of Public Safety use-of-force policies and procedures.

The Department of Public Safety is working with the Public Safety Advisory Committee to review UNI use-of-force policies and procedures. UNI's procedures currently meet or exceed state and federal standards. The Committee is composed of members of the Faculty, P&S staff, Merit staff and Northern Iowa Student government.

I want to assure the campus community that we will be diligent and thorough in this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail or call. We will move forward with the arming process once a thorough review is completed.

Sincerely,

Dave Zarifis, Director