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October 10, 1989

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

TO: The Evergreen Community
FROM: Joseph D. Olander, President
RE: Personal Safety at Evergreen

Joe Olander

This memorandum contains the charge to a Disappearing Task Force to study the safety of The Evergreen State College campus. Nationwide concern about campus security has been widely reported. In our own state, the Senate recently approved Senate Resolution 8712, which states that crime is increasing on college campuses "at a rate higher than that in society." On our own campus, incidents have occurred involving indecent exposure, student office forced entry, sexual assault, etc. that underlie my decision to charge this DTF. As a community, we need an opportunity to think about and articulate our concerns about our personal safety.

This inquiry should not establish the issue of the Campus Security Department becoming an armed Police Department as a central focus. In 1985, the administration went on record as opposing the establishment of an armed, commissioned police department at Evergreen. The administration's position is based largely on the recommendations of a DTF charged to examine this issue in 1984. At present, the authority to establish an armed, commissioned police department lies with the Board of Trustees. However, the Department of Labor and Industries is investigating and has just reported its findings concerning an unsafe working condition complaint filed by one of our officers. Simultaneously, the Senate Higher Education Committee is taking a system-wide look at campus safety, including the proposition that all public campuses have armed police departments. While the Labor and Industries investigation focused on the safety of our security officers, the Senate committee is concerned about general security on public college and university campuses. I ask the DTF to keep these external factors in mind, but not to let them dominate the discussion about what we, as a community, can do to improve personal security on campus.

I ask the DTF to carry out the following charge:

Charge to the Personal Safety DTF

The charge to this DTF is to: 1) determine how all campus constituencies evaluate their personal safety; 2) determine the causes of the individual's sense of being safe or unsafe; and 3) make recommendations (with associated costs*) on how to increase personal safety on campus.

I ask that a safety survey of all constituencies be a centerpiece for the DTF report, that you consult with appropriate campus officials such as the Safety Officer, Grievance Officer, and Chief of Security, and that I receive your recommendations no later than the end of fall quarter, 1989. I ask that your survey address personal security issues in a very broad sense, e.g. from issues of conflict resolution among community members to issues concerning locking all buildings.

Your recommendations with associated costs will enable the administration to include the safety considerations of the community in its financial planning.

The membership of the DTF includes:

Nancy Allen and Paul Sparks, Members of the Faculty

Brad Aikin, Linda Hohman, Jill Lowe, and Denise Robertson, Staff

Lisa Slettebak, Mary Lou O'Neil, and Michael Cousins, Students

Nancy Allen has agreed to serve as chairperson.

* The budget office and budget coordinators are available to cost out the recommendations.

cc: Steve Hunter, Director of Institutional Research, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Jaech, Assistant to the President for Governmental Relations,
Ex-Officio
Gary Russell, Chief of Security, Ex-Officio
Steve Trotter, Budget Officer
Budget Coordinators (Vallie Jo Fry, Karen Wynkoop, Bill Zaugg)
Nancy Allen
Paul Sparks
Brad Aikin
Linda Hohman
Jill Lowe
Denise Robertson
Lisa Slettebak
Mary Lou O'Neil
Michael Cousins