TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: President Sabah Randhawa by Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President, Business and Financial Affairs

DATE: February 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Annual Department of Public Safety Report

PURPOSE: Information Item

Purpose of Submittal:
Below is the annual update of the Department of Public Safety.

Supporting Information:
The Department of Public Safety is under the direction of Darin Rasmussen, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, supported by Keith Williams, Assistant Director of Public Safety/Assistant Chief of Police. Assistant Chief Williams was hired in April 2018 following a national search. Assistant Chief Williams has over 30 years of law enforcement experience, most recently as the Chief of Police for Kinloch, Missouri.

The Department of Public Safety’s Strategic Plan pursues three primary goals:
1) Reduce crime, disturbances, and incidents that pose potential threats of violence or create a fear of crime in the community;
2) Strengthen community awareness, involvement and interaction with the Department of Public Safety; and,
3) Develop the organization’s internal capacity and ability to promote and nurture the Community Oriented Policing philosophy among departmental personnel.

State Level Participation
Chief Rasmussen participates on the University Policing Committee of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). WASPC is the state’s recognized professional organization for law enforcement related issues and has significant influence in Olympia. The University Policing Committee meets quarterly. This committee has a mutual aid agreement among the six university police agencies for responding to major disasters or events, and a “best practice” policy for dealing with threats of violence and response to violent situations on campus.

Community Participation
Staff actively participate in professional associations and task force programs, including community committees, professional law enforcement associations, community-based crime suppression and safety task forces, and campus committees.
In partnership with Western’s Office of Off-Campus Living and the Bellingham Police Department, Western’s Department of Public Safety actively participates to address neighborhood issues that draw citizen complaints over noise, traffic, littering, and other behavioral issues. It is part of Western’s commitment to keep our students safe and be a “good neighbor” to the communities around Western’s campus.

The Department of Public Safety continues its strong working relationship with the Bellingham Police Department, and Chief of Police David Doll, as well as with the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office and Sheriff Bill Elfo. This collaboration includes participation in the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office Special Event Team for planned and unplanned disturbances, beginning in the summer of 2018.

Two of Western’s police officers continue to serve as members of the Bellingham Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), and participate actively in joint training operations in the neighborhoods surrounding the Western’s campus.

University police officers participated with other agencies throughout Whatcom County in emphasis of traffic enforcement activities. These activities included DUI emphasis patrols and general traffic enforcement.

**WWU Programs**

The Community Services Officer program utilizes uniformed police officers who present programs to the community dealing with Crime Prevention, Personal Safety, Property Protection, Substance Abuse, and other topics.

The Bicycle and Skateboard Patrol program coordinates bicycle and skateboard safety efforts to heighten awareness to the central campus core of campus regulations, and to allow more personalized contact with students, faculty, and staff. Officers engage in an educational program to make bicyclists and skateboarders aware of the rules affecting them, and a strong enforcement effort to hold violators who continue to ignore the rules in place for the “walk zones” accountable.

As part of its annual participation in the Compass 2 Campus program (in addition to being an active part of the annual on-campus event), the department successfully completes hundreds of criminal history checks for program student volunteers annually, and works with several campus partners to improve the safety practices for programs involving children at Western.

The department conducts regular “Behaviors of Concern - Violence Prevention” training sessions for students, faculty and staff. These sessions include two video presentations, “Options for Consideration” and “Flashpoint”. The videos link from the department’s homepage, as does Western’s “Emergency Preparedness” video, so that all students, faculty, and staff may have easy access to this important safety information.

In 2016 the department implemented the Campus Public Safety Advisory Council, and is co-chaired by the Director of Public Safety and the Dean of Students. The council is advisory and consultative, focused on programs, policies, and procedures, and is comprised of a cross section of Western’s community including students, faculty, and staff, plus identified members of the external community. The council assists the Director of Public Safety and the department in remaining responsive to the needs of the campus community by providing input on issues.
surrounding public safety, crime abatement, and campus security. The council meets several times
year or as needed.

In Fall 2018 the department partnered with the Dean of Libraries to conduct a North Campus
Community Policing Pilot Program. An officer is provided an office in Wilson Library, with office
hours during the shift. The officer primarily interacts with students, faculty, staff, and visitors in the
library, however also responds to calls for service throughout campus. This pilot program has
received very favorable responses from the community and was extended to Winter Quarter 2019
for further review.

**Emergency Response and Notifications**

Through close working relationships with the Office of Communications and Marketing and the
Environmental Health and Safety department, a multi-faceted alert system makes it possible to
notify students, faculty, and staff via both text messaging and email within minutes of an event that
may pose an immediate threat to the campus. This system also uses our current fire alarm system
to facilitate transmission of voice messages throughout campus buildings and incorporates
Desktop Notification, which sends a similar notification through all networked computers on

campus.

The Department of Public Safety is in full compliance with FBI and Washington State Patrol
requirements for security standards for all Western staff who may meet or work in those areas that
contain confidential criminal justice information.

The department leads a Safety Assessment Team (Threat Assessment), with representatives from
Enrollment and Student Services, Judicial Affairs, Department of Public Safety, Counseling
Services, Residential Life, and the Student Health Center. The team is in full compliance with the
guidelines recommended by the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association (NaBITA) with
regard to its approach to potential issues of concern on campus. This team meets on a routine
basis, as well as when necessary to deal with potentially threatening situations, to strengthen the
collective ability to resolve or mitigate issues of concern. The collaborative team of professionals
has functioned well to respond to several serious incidents affecting Western.

**Professional Standards and Training**

Professional standards and training form a cornerstone in the development of competent police
officers and civilian personnel, and a requirement of the accreditation standards. Officers are
expected to demonstrate mental and physical skills that include strong written and verbal
communication abilities, knowledge of relevant laws, officer safety techniques, and proficiency at

skills that support proper patrol procedures.

In 2018 officers received over 866 hours of scheduled training in areas specifically related to their
jobs. These included training in firearms, defensive tactics, active shooter joint-training, crisis
intervention, lethal force, and RAVE emergency messaging training. A priority this year was
sending an officer to Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigation Training at BIOLA University in
La Mirada, California. Chief Rasmussen and Assistant Chief Williams attended Accreditation
Manager Training at the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies
(IACLEA) Annual Conference as part of the Department’s efforts to become IACLEA Accreditation
Certified. Additionally, all officers are now in compliance with the state mandated Crisis Intervention
training.
The department promoted two new sergeants within the last year, Corporal Josef Bailey and Officer Wolf Lipson. Both have done an outstanding job in learning and performing in their new roles.

**State and Federal Reporting**

The Jeanne Clery Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, passed by Congress in 1990, and constantly modified, is in response to concerns about crime and security at post-secondary education institutions. This Act requires institutions to disclose information about campus safety policies and procedures, and to provide statistics concerning whether certain crimes took place on campus. The program is a mandatory nationwide reporting effort that tracks statistical information of the seven most serious criminal offenses within geographical areas and reporting districts.

The Department of Public Safety and Enrollment and Student Services compile the on-going annual crime statistics for publication and ensure compliance with Federal Register guidelines. Updated information is provided annually for new and returning students, staff, and faculty. Police agencies also report monthly activity through the National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS) segment of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. UCR information is included in Clery Act (Student Right-to-Know) reporting, along with information about alcohol and drug law violations, weapons possession, and incidents of student misconduct.

In 2018 an audit of the University’s efforts to comply with the Clery Act was conducted by the Office of the Internal Auditor (OIA). This was a comprehensive and collaborative effort that sought to identify gaps and areas to improve. The OIA concluded its audit in October 2018 and made nine separate recommendations to improve compliance and address gaps. The University concurred with all nine recommendations, and the Director of Public Safety and the Assistant Dean of Students developed an implementation plan to meet or exceed the OIA’s recommendations. It is anticipated that all recommendations will be implemented by October 1, 2019.