

SB461

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/29/92

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 5-6-92

The Finance Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 461

"An Act relating to establishment of a University of Alaska office of public safety."

and recommends:

- replace with _____ CS _____ (FINANCE)
 or adopt previous _____ CS SB 461 (HES)
 attaches amendment(s)

same title
 new title
 technical title change (HB only)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes _____

fiscal notes _____

appropriation--no fiscal note

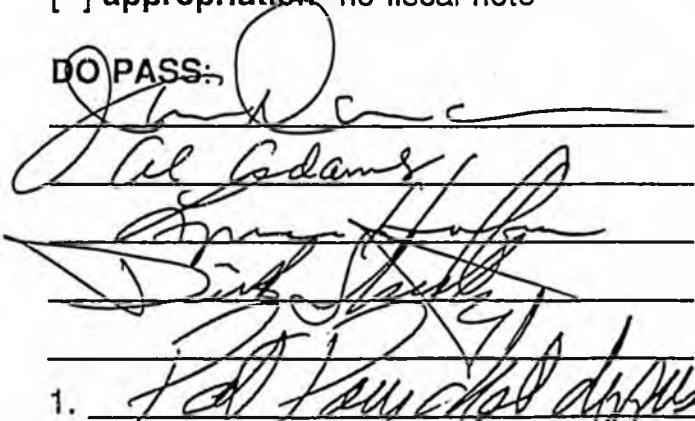
PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes Univ. 4-28-92

fiscal notes _____

DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:



1. [Signature]
Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

2. _____
Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO.

Bill Version: SB 461

(S) Publish Date: 4-29-92

Revised: 4/28/92
Title: UA Office of Public Safety

Department Affected: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
BRU: SW Programs and Services
Component: Statewide Services

Sponsor: Judiciary
Requestor: Governor

Component Serial No: 730

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
REVENUE FD SOURCE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUNDS						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: -0-

ANALYSIS (Attach additional pages as necessary)

Changes in CSB 461 (HES)
have no fiscal impact. This
fiscal note is appropriate.

4-29-92 MJ by AMR
date Comte Aide (initial)

Prepared by: Marsha Hubbard, Director
Division: Statewide Budget Office

Phone: 474-7593
Date: 4/28/92

Approved by: Brian Rogers, Vice President for Finance
Agency: University of Alaska

Date: 4/28/92

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies)

NEW BILL IN
COMMITTEE 42992

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 461 (HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/29/92
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to establishment of a University of Alaska office of public safety."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 14.40.043. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY. The board
5 of regents may establish an office of public safety and prescribe the conditions of employment
6 of public safety officers employed by the office. University of Alaska public safety officers have
7 general police powers to enforce state and local laws in connection with offenses committed on
8 property of the university.

9 * Sec. 2. AS 18.65.290(5) is amended to read:

10 (5) "police officer" means

11 (A) a full-time employee of the state or a local police department with the
12 authority to arrest and issue citations; detain a person taken into custody until that person
13 can be arraigned before a judge or magistrate; conduct investigations of violations of and
14 enforce criminal laws, regulations, and traffic laws; search with or without a warrant

1 persons, dwellings, and other forms of property for evidence of a crime; carry a concealed
2 weapon; and take other action consistent with exercise of these enumerated powers when
3 necessary to maintain the public peace;

4 (B) an officer or employee of the Department of Transportation and Public
5 Facilities who is stationed at an international airport and has been designated to have the
6 general police powers authorized under AS 02.15.230(a);

7 (C) a University of Alaska public safety officer with general police
8 powers authorized under AS 14.40.043;

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR HOFFMAN

TO: CSSB 461(HES)

Page 1, line 1, after "safety":

Insert "and to village public safety officers"

Page 2, after line 8:

Insert a new subparagraph to read:

"(D) a village public safety officer;"

"To Serve and Protect"

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Department of Public Safety

Fairbanks, Alaska • 99775-0720 • (907) 474-7721 • FAX (907) 474-5555

May 1, 1992

The Honorable Pat Pourchot
Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Reference: Senate Bill No. 461

Dear Senator Pourchot:

Due to Director Florian's absence after recent major surgery, I will convey information which I hope proves helpful on this most important legislative issue.

I wish to add my comments in support of Senate Bill No. 461. There are many reasons why it is vital to the University's well-being for this legislation to pass the Senate.

The University Campus in Fairbanks is unique in that not only do students, staff and faculty attend classes and work, but hundreds live in dorms, apartments and homes on campus. This campus hosts many functions and activities drawing thousands of non-affiliated people from many varying areas requiring many different needs.

This Bill will also assist this department in attracting and retaining commissioned officers that have outstanding qualifications and training.

Due to campus environments like ours nation-wide, universities have found it necessary to implement police departments in order to protect the property and lives of the campus community and to reduce the university's associated liabilities.

As commissioned officers, we are able to directly respond to incidents which occur immediately rather than rely on the response by another agency which is sometimes delayed due to circumstances beyond the University's control, such as manpower shortages and emergency responses in their own jurisdictions. Without our police commissions, our officers would not be able to respond or investigate many types of incidents which occur, but would have to rely solely on an outside agency.

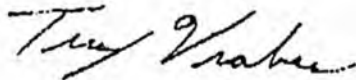
MAY 01 '92 15:11 UAF ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable Pat Pourchot
Senate Bill No. 461
May 1, 1992
Page Two

In addition, commissioned officers with this Department are specially attuned to the unique needs and sensitivities of a campus environment which can be very helpful when dealing with students and the community as a whole. Whenever possible, our officers work closely with individuals concerning various situations in preventative and informative roles rather than always in a reactive role.

In conclusion, I strongly urge your support on Senate Bill No. 461 and if there are any further questions I can answer, please do not hesitate to contact Director Florian or me.

Sincerely,



Terry E. Vrabec
Acting Director

TV/nw

Attachment

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**

Associated Students University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0220 • (907) 474-7355

Senate Resolution 590/# 18

Title: "A Resolution in Favor of a Commissioned and Armed Security Force"

Sponsors: Muske and Barrett

Date: 29 April 90

Whereas it has recently been noted that Campus Security is not meeting the safety needs of the university, due to a lack of officers empowered to come to the aid of university residents and patrons; and

Whereas incidents of domestic violence, theft, and rape have increased in recent years, and that the university public and Security face the problem of slow response time from the State Troopers; and

Whereas commissioned and trained security officers should be equipped to face dangerous situations whenever they may arise;

Therefore be It Resolved that the ASUAF Senate support the expansion of UAF Security to include commissioned and armed officers hired by the university to meet the needs of protecting the University community. These officers must carry the same training, qualifications, and duties as officers hired by the Fairbanks Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers;



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

File
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY/PARKING

April 30, 1992

The Honorable Pat Pourchot
Senate District H, Seat A
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Reference: Senate Bill No. 461

Dear Senator Pourchot:

As the Director of the Department of Public Safety for the University of Alaska Anchorage, I am writing this letter, with attachments, in order to clarify the need for commissioned and certified officers in reference to Senate Bill No. 461.

I have been employed as a public safety officer for UAA since 1981. I have been a commissioned officer for that entire period of time and I know that this department had commissioned officers several years prior to my arrival. The issue of having commissioned officers on this campus is not a new one. The campus community, as a whole, has been quite supportive of the actions and duties of my department.

Our commissions, (special peace officers), are currently granted through the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety for the State of Alaska under AS 18.65.010. They are commissions that are renewable yearly, and which grant approved applicants regular police powers to enforce the laws of the State of Alaska on this campus. The commissions are restrictive as to time and place, and ours indicate that they are in effect while on duty and while on campus only.

These special peace officer commissions have been issued to university employees with police training and backgrounds who meet or exceed the minimum qualifications for certification. However, we are not able to become certified officers through the Alaska Police Standards Council, an issue that would be rectified with the passage of S.B.461.

In a recent letter from Commissioner Burton of the Department of Public Safety, dated 4/17/92, he indicated that he has reviewed the issuance of special peace officer commissions to my staff and has determined that the commissions no longer meet the primary purpose of AS 18.65.010. (See attachment A). He has agreed not to pull

our existing commissions until legislators have had an opportunity to review this pending legislation.

Last year the President of the University of Alaska, Dr. Jerome Komisar, put together a UA Campus Crime Task Force and charged them with developing recommendations concerning the entire scope of the Federal Campus Security Act of 1990. The task force delved into many facets of campus life. The task force learned of Commissioner Burton's proposed reduction of support to the law enforcement efforts of the University. As a result of the task force review, a series of recommendations were forwarded to the president. Recommendation #4 states, "that the University seek the authority to establish its own qualified law enforcement department and that it take the necessary steps to do so as soon as possible". (See attachment B).

The task force also reviewed other options in providing for a way to properly protect the people and the assets of the University. The issue of security guards was discussed as an alternative to commissioned officers and, after some discussion, was ruled out. Security guards, in essence, may provide some degree of protection for the assets of the institution but do not directly address protection for our large population of students, faculty, staff and visitors. Commissioned officers are empowered to take the immediate and appropriate legal steps to deal with issues as they arise. Security guards would have to refer many of these cases to a police department.

The other factor that must be considered is the ability of commissioned officers to control the traffic on campuses. At UAA we currently have an enrollment which exceeds 15,000 students. My staff of 9 commissioned officers expend a great deal of time in enforcing traffic rules. Without commissioned officers, who are empowered to stop and cite traffic offenders, control would cease.

Attachment C will show you the activities of my department since 1988. Most of these activities required the direct response of a commissioned officer. As you can see the level of activity in most categories shows a steady increase. Commissioned officers who receive training specific to their work in a university environment are the preferred solution to dealing with these problems.

Attachment D is a letter from Mr. Michael Turner, Associate Professor and Faculty Coordinator of Advising and Counseling. At my request he wrote this letter to provide information that will further identify the need for commissioned officers on the university campus.

I wish to urge your support of Senate Bill No. 461, and to convey Chancellor Behrend's support on behalf of the UAA community. Should you require any further clarification as to the university's need for this legislation, I am at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Robert Bachand, Director
(907) 786-1120



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
Office of the General Counsel
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 786-1531

Fairbanks
William R. Kauffman
Vice President and General Counsel
J. Mark Neumayr
Associate General Counsel
Anchorage
Jean S. Sagan
Associate General Counsel

April 17, 1992

Mr. Jeremy Vermilyea
Legislative Coordinator, AS UAF
Wood Center
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

Dear Mr. Vermilyea:

This shall confirm our phone conversation of Tuesday, April 14, 1992, regarding Senate Bill 461. As I advised you when we spoke, I am currently in the process of drafting proposed policies to facilitate the University's implementation of the authority contained in the legislation, should it pass this session.

The policies will address the reporting lines and oversight authority for the Department of Public Safety within the University of Alaska, the establishment or identification of appropriate advisory bodies, the adoption and maintenance of official operating procedures manuals, and any other relevant considerations that come to my attention. As you already know, last semester both UAA's and UAF's Departments of Public Safety adopted comprehensive operating procedures manuals which are patterned on and consistent with that of the Alaska State Troopers.

I anticipate that the draft proposals will be considered by the Board at its June 11-12, 1992 meeting in Valdez, and that they will be circulated to the respective constituent bodies sufficiently in advance to allow meaningful review and input to the Board at that time.

I hope that this addresses the concerns you have expressed. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further assistance on this topic.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean S. Sagan".

Jean S. Sagan
Associate General Counsel



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Associated Students University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0220 • (907) 474-7355

April 27, 1992

Representative Max F. Gruenberg Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 216
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gruenberg,

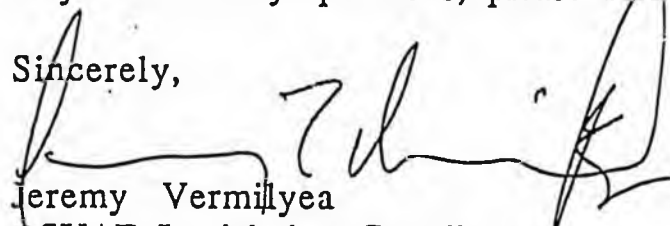
I am writing this letter in regards to several conversations I have had with Stan Robbins about SB 461, "An act relating to the establishment of a University of Alaska Office of Public Safety." We have discussed some concerns the students of UAF had with the bill in its present form, mainly the fact that the bill does not provide for input from the University community as to the implementation and operation of a new department of Public Safety.

Since those discussions I have spoken with Jean Sagan, Associate General Counsel for the university. Ms. Sagan has assured me that there will be student, faculty and staff input on the statewide and campus levels when implementing the new department. A copy of a letter written from Ms. Sagan to myself is attached.

It is because of this assurance that the students of UAF will support SB 461, and any similar legislation that may come from the House of Representatives. The establishment of a University of Alaska Office of Public Safety will remove much of the red tape that exists within the system currently, and will provide for improved safety for all patrons of the campuses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jeremy Vermilyea
ASUAF Legislative Coordinator

Attachment A

STATE OF ALASKA

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

P.O. BOX 111200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-1200
PHONE: (907) 465-4322

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Received
4/21/92

April 17, 1992

Mr. Robert Bachand, Director
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. Bachand:

Re: Special Police Commissions

Thank you for meeting with Colonel John R. Murphy, Director of the Division of Alaska State Troopers, to discuss the Special Police Commissions which are issued to employees of the University's Department of Public Safety under the authority vested in me under AS 18.65.010.

The standard under AS 18.65.010 for reviewing applications for a Special Police Commission is whether or not the special officer is "necessary to aid or assist the division of state troopers." At the time that commissions were first issued to security officers of the University of Alaska Anchorage, the Alaska State Troopers assumed the responsibility of providing law enforcement on the Anchorage campus.

Today, the Anchorage Police Department is the law enforcement agency responsible for providing primary law enforcement on the Anchorage Campus of the University of Alaska. As such, enforcement action taken by Officers of the University's Department of Public Safety primarily assists the Anchorage Police Department as opposed to the Division of Alaska State Troopers.

Therefore, as the Anchorage Police Department is the law enforcement agency primarily responsible for responding to requests for assistance at the Anchorage Campus because the campus is within their jurisdiction, it is my view that the Special Officer Commissions that have been issued to your employees under AS 18.65.010 should be revoked, as they no longer meet the primary purpose of the statute.

It is not my intent to question or diminish the amount of assistance that has been provided over the years to the Division of Alaska State Troopers by University security officers.

Mr. Robert Bachand
April 17, 1992
Page 2

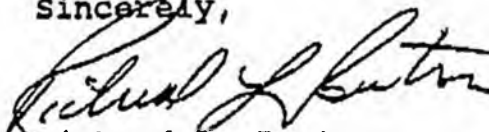
My purpose in initiating this review is to ensure that any Special Officer Commissions that are issued are done so properly and in accordance with the statute.

I recognize that the revocation of these commissions may be disruptive to your agency. Additionally, given the fact that a bill has been introduced by the Legislature relating to the establishment of a University of Alaska Office of Public Safety, and further delineating that the officers have general police powers to enforce state and local laws, I will delay the cancellation of these commissions until after the Legislature has had an opportunity to review this legislation, thereby reducing the impact on the University.

There is currently one application for a commission pending in my office (Thomas H. Chivers). I am delaying any action on this application--I believe it would be best to see if the Legislature passes the above-referenced legislation.

Thank you for support of the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers, and for your understanding as we review these special police commissions.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Burton
Commissioner

cc: Colonel John R. Murphy, Director
Division of Alaska State Troopers

4. A STATEMENT OF POLICIES CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF UNIVERSITY SECURITY PERSONNEL AND ITS WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE AND LOCAL POLICE AGENCIES AND RECOMMENDED POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE THE PROMPT REPORTING OF CRIMES.

Although the University of Alaska bears responsibility for providing a reasonably safe and secure learning and working environment for its students and staff, as well as for visitors to its campuses, the University has no authority to hire, appoint or designate individuals to enforce the laws on its property. Enforcement authority currently comes in the form of special commissions granted to individual University personnel at the discretion of the Commissioner of Public Safety for the State of Alaska. The commissions are granted for one year at a time for the purpose of assisting AST in the enforcement of state law. At this time the UAA campus has nine commissioned officers, UAF has four commissioned officers, and none of the other campuses have any commissioned officers. Because the UAA campus falls within the Municipality of Anchorage it is in APD's jurisdiction, and it is the current Commissioner's position that UAA's campus police assist APD rather than AST in the enforcement of state law.

The working relationship between the University's safety/security personnel and local police agencies is excellent. Despite the absence of any formalized mutual aid agreements campus safety/security personnel regularly interact with JPD, APD and AST personnel at a variety of levels. Without such excellent working relationships the institutions would have been unable to provide even the minimal level of security now maintained. However, as the population of the state, its communities and our campus continues to grow out of proportion to available funding, state and local law enforcement agencies are being forced to cut back on those services they now provide, and it is unrealistic to expect that they can continue to back up campus security to the extent they have in the

President Jerome B. Komisar
September 13, 1991
Page 9

past. In fact, during the spring and summer of 1991 there were at least two significant occasions on which AST and APD were unable to respond to requests for assistance in a timely fashion and where as a result campus safety/security was unable to effectively enforce the law. Both occasions involved acts of violence which fortunately did not result in tragedy.

Despite the excellent working relationship between the University safety/security staff and state and local police agencies, the current source of enforcement authority places campus safety/security officers in an awkward and potentially confusing position. First, the officers are employed by the University and must abide by the lawful directives of their employer, yet at the same time they are empowered by the Commissioner and must adhere to his performance expectations or lose their power to enforce the law. Should there be a difference of opinion on matters like the appropriate circumstances in which to use force or when to refer a matter for administrative handling rather than for prosecution, the officer finds him or herself in a difficult dilemma. In addition, the University may, for example, be forced to send a case to court for criminal prosecution when in its professional judgment it would have been better dealt with as a matter of student or employee discipline. Second, another area of confusion arises where the security officers are perceived to have authority that they do not possess. Not only is this perception common within the campus community, it is also common among other law enforcement personnel. AST has continually requested UAF Security Department assistance in incidents without taking into account that UAF's security personnel are unarmed and without authority. The potential dangers which inure to this situation are self-evident.

The task force recommends that the University seek the authority to establish its own qualified law enforcement department and that it take the necessary steps to do so as soon as possible. The task force also recommends that mutual aid agreements be developed with existing state and local law enforcement entities to clarify what will be expected of each agency in emergency response situations.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
JANUARY-DECEMBER

	1988	1989	1990	1991
Agency Assist	10	75	91	50
Assault	9	9	11	12
Bomb Threat	1	0	3	11
Burglary	3	5	2	9
Curfew/Loitering	4	9	27	9
Disorderly/Disturbance	36	74	93	107
Domestic	3	7	2	6
Drug Possession	0	0	1	4
DWI	6	4	7	2
Forgery/Counterfeit/Fraud	2	2	5	5
Harassment	2	13	18	27
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Liquor Laws	55	46	49	41
Missing Person/Runaway	19	6	5	6
Motor Vehicle Accident	89	90	102	70
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	5	4	4
Officer In Trouble	1	0	0	0
Recovered Property	10	10	10	4
Robbery	1	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	0	0	1	0
Sex Offenses (Other Than Rape) ..	13	11	0	4
Suicide (Actual & Attempted) ...	4	2	2	7
Suspicious Person/Circumstance ..	91	130	115	194
Theft	165	141	123	125
Traffic (Including Impounds) ...	579	920	826	454
Trespass	16	26	26	21
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	53	56	66	38
Warrant Service	15	27	58	38
Weapons/Firearms Violations	5	4	2	4
Uniform Traffic Citations	147	290	240	109
Total Arrests	41	75	115	89



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ADVISING AND COUNSELING CENTER
(907) 786-1570

April 29, 1992

Mr. Robert E. Bachand, Director
Department of Public Safety
University of Alaska, Anchorage
3211 Providence Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Director Bachand:

I would like to share with you the reasons I am supporting the legislation SB-461.

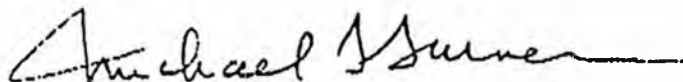
I feel that it is imperative to maintain your Department's presence on the campus here at University of Alaska Anchorage. As a twenty-two year, full-time faculty member, 17 years which were at Anchorage Community College, I have relied upon your officers to assist me with crisis intervention calls that involved our students, faculty, staff and citizens from the area. I can confidently state that often, the presence of a commissioned peace officer has made the difference between a peaceful resolution and one that could have resulted in physical harm to the individuals and by-standers involved.

I feel that a campus the size of University of Alaska Anchorage is in fact a mini-society. It has become evident over the years as our enrollment has increased, and the addition of residence housing, that the calls for assistance for the Advising and Counseling Center Counselors has increased. There have been incidents during the past three years, that your immediate presence has resulted in an efficient and productive resolution, whereas the delay involved in waiting for an outside law enforcement presence would have increased the likelihood of further escalation with drastic results. It should be acknowledged that whenever I have responded to emergency or crisis situations, that the employees involved have consistently remarked that without the Campus Police, they genuinely feel that the situations would have worsened. After coordinating the crisis intervention process on campus for the past five years, I must agree with the employees that your Department's presence, the high quality of officers that meet commission standards, their professionalism and personal investment in students your officers have demonstrated cannot be replaced by 'call-up' officers or rent-for-service 'security agencies.'

In addition I would like to point out that the increase of incidents involving crisis intervention dealing with reports of disturbed individuals have specifically involved individuals that are not students, faculty or staff, but rather persons who have 'walked' onto the campus. That fact only emphasizes the often overlooked vulnerability of the open campus concept that we all promote for the University of Alaska Anchorage. This increase in incidents involving 'non-students' is not attributable by our immediate presence to two hospitals that provide psychiatric services, or the correctional center across the street to the south. Although these respective facilities do, on occasion, experience walk-away patients/inmates, such occurrences, by themselves, do not account for the trend I have observed.

In closing, the loss of your Department would necessitate a total restructuring of our crisis intervention program, and would result in a less effective process and protection for all involved.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Turner, Associate Professor
Counseling Coordinator
Advising and Counseling Center

University of Alaska

Statewide System

SB 461 Establishment of UA Office of Public Safety

The University, with the support of the Commissioner of Public Safety, is seeking the authority to commission persons employed to maintain public safety on the property of the University. For many years the University has been dependent upon the issuance of special commissions by the Commissioner of Public Safety pursuant to AS 18.65.010. While such commissions have met the need of the University and the interests of the state in having readily available law enforcement personnel, the special commission as authorized in AS 18.65.010 is intended primarily to serve the function of providing direct assistance to the state troopers. Since the University public safety officers serve only in a capacity related to their employment at the University, it is both unnecessary and inappropriate that the Commissioner continue to be responsible for granting such commissions. Because the University public safety officers do not serve to assist the state troopers, the Commissioner of Public Safety, Richard Burton, has informed the University that it is his intention to cease granting commissions, and has encouraged the University to seek this authority.

In view of the significant concentration of people and property on the campuses of the University and the increasing obligations imposed by case law to protect persons on the property of colleges and universities, it is essential that a professional public safety office be established at the urban campuses of the University of Alaska. The University's desire to effectively protect its students, faculty and staff; and the national attention focused on campus safety which resulted in the passage of the Student Right to Know, and Campus Security

contact: Wendy Redman
UA Statewide System
474-7582/463-3086

Position Paper

Act, have led to the conclusion that full-time commissioned officers are essential to provide a secure environment for the University communities. The officers as employed and commissioned by the University would, at a minimum, meet all standards governing police officers as adopted by the Alaska Police Standard Council pursuant to its authority under AS 18.65.130 et seq. It is further the intent of the University of Alaska that campus public safety officers receive training specific to their work in a university environment.

The situation has become particularly urgent in the Anchorage area following significant reductions in the Anchorage State Trooper post that have resulted in a loss of State Trooper coverage for the University area. At the same time, local police in Anchorage and Fairbanks are unable to extend regular service to the campus facilities. Therefore, in order to provide adequate public safety protection to the University communities, it is essential that the authority for commissioning public safety officers be extended to the University.

The students and staff of the University community will continue to be involved in the design and development of campus public safety programs. The commissioning of public safety officers does not mean that all officers will carry weapons, nor does it mean that all campus security personnel will be commissioned public safety officers. The campus programs will be designed to meet the specific needs of each campus, and will include a mix of professional and student employees to assure a sensitive and appropriate approach to campus security needs.