

INTRODUCTION

In the Spring of 2005, the Rowan University Board of Trustees made the decision to permit the arming of campus police officers beginning July 1, 2005. The Board's approval was conditioned on a review

SURVEY

The committee prepared the survey

8. Your years of education

- (1) Less than 12
- (2) 12 plus
- (3) 14 plus
- (4) 16 plus

9. Where do you reside?

- (1) On campus
- (2) Off campus

10. Are you aware that there are both sworn police officers and security officers working on the Rowan campus?

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

14a. If yes, how would you describe your experience?

(1) Unfavorable

(2) Mixed feeling between unfavorable and favorable

(3) Favorable

15. Have any of your friends, classmates, or colleagues had any experience wit

representation of the campus community in terms of gender (female = 56.1%, male = 43.9%); marital status (unmarried = 55.7%, married = 44.3%); campus status (undergraduate students = 42.1%, graduate students = 4.7%, faculty = 22.2%, staff = 20.6%, administra%

A number of questions on the survey were designed to solicit information regarding personal contact and interaction with members of the Rowan Public Safety staff. Related survey responses are as follows:

Yes = 62%

No = 38%

Unfavorable = 6.4%

N

Better = 34.2%
No difference = 55.8%
Worse = 10%

Yes = 32.5%
Makes no difference = 43.1%
No = 24.4%

will be probed, a properly structured and conducted focus group creates a more permissive atmosphere in which the priorities and lived experiences of the participants can more freely emerge.

An orientation was provided at the start of each of the focus group sessions in the interest of ensuring that the participants understood the purpose of the session and the process that would be utilized. The articulated purpose was to understand the breadth and depth of student perceptions and opinions about campus safety.

Participants were informed that the Rowan University Board of Trustees had authorized some of our public safety officers, those who are academy trained and sworn police officers, to carry firearms while on duty and that at that time not more than two officers per shift were carrying side arms. Participants were further told that we wanted to know their concerns, opinions and experiences regarding public safety and security on this campus and to have them discuss their views concerning the impact of arming our public safety officers on student campus life at the University.

Participants were assured that the discussion would be treated as entirely confidential, that the participants would not be identified beyond first names in the transcripts of the sessions, and that subsequent comments would be attributed to persons identified only by sex, class rank and academic major.

The following rules were followed in conducting the focus groups:

1. Both positive and negative comments are

5. The facilitators are the persons responsible for maintaining the group process.
6. What you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here.

Focus Group Discussion Questions

The following questions were used by the facilitators in conducting the focus groups:

1. What is your name, your class rank, academic major and hometown?
2. Where do you now live; on-campus, off-campus or at home? Have you always lived in the same location as a Rowan student?
3. Are you employed and, if so, is it on or off campus?
4. Do you regard this campus as a safe place t

Summary of Focus Group Sessions

The data that emerged from both sessions were very consistent. In addition, there is a large measure of consistency between the data from the focus groups and the student data gathered from the online survey. The following are the major findings from the two focus group sessions:

- Most students know that some of our officers are armed but did not necessarily know they received the same training as all police officers.
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Recommendations

1. Continue to only arm those members of the Department of Public Safety who have met the prerequisites of being Academy trained and a sworn officer within the State of New Jersey.
2. Expand the ranks of police officers within the Department of Public Safety in accordance with campus security needs.
3. Continue the participation of the