

**To: President Jehuda Reinharz**  
**From: The Firearms Advisory Committee**  
**Date: September 10, 2007**

### Background

On April 26, 2007, Peter French, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, convened an advisory group to consider the pros and cons of arming the Brandeis University Public Safety Officers and to advise the President as to whether or not to arm them. Committee membership and a calendar of meetings are listed in Appendix A.

We learned several salient facts during the committee meetings:

1. When university police are armed, they are required to go through the same extensive training/psychological evaluations/background checks as city or state police who are armed. Our Public Safety Officers are trained at the State Police Academy.
2. University police are required to be re-certified on a regular basis.
3. Many of the current Brandeis Public Safety Officers have trained with municipal police, are LTC [licensed to carry arms], and think that being armed will give them an important tool to respond to crisis situations if such should occur at Brandeis. Currently, Brandeis Public Safety Officers carry clubs and mace.
4. In emergency situations, Waltham police respond as quickly as possible, generally within 2-5 minutes of a call. (Captain William Stanton of the Waltham Police told us, however, that response time could be even greater, depending upon the location and quantity of other emergencies within the city.) Upon arriving, the Waltham Police rely on maps, general information, and communication from Brandeis Public Safety Officers.
5. The Waltham police do not know their way around the buildings and campus the way that our officers do. In dangerous and/or highly ambiguous situations, Brandeis Public Safety Officers are able to respond much more quickly, owing to their knowledge of the University's people and physical layout.
6. Because Brandeis Public Safety Officers are currently not armed, they are not allowed to respond to any situation in which weapons are reported or present. When someone is allegedly armed and/or may be dangerous on campus, campus police must wait for the Waltham Police to respond. Last year, when someone

reported that a weapon was present at a fight in graduate housing, the Campus Police could not respond until the Waltham police arrived.

7. The university has a very good relationship with the Waltham Police. Nevertheless, Captain Stanton reported that the Waltham Police feel that Brandeis would be better protected if the University were to arm its Public Safety Officers. Local police feel safer responding to a Brandeis emergency if the campus police also carry firearms. In support of arming the Brandeis police, Captain Stanton of the Waltham Police said, "I'm glad Bentley is armed. We have not had a complaint. They are professionals...I have tremendous confidence in the Brandeis Campus Chief."
8. Many faculty, staff, and students may not be aware of the qualifications of the Brandeis Police, and may confuse sworn Campus Officers with the Brandeis traffic safety staff. Consequently, there will be a need to educate the community about the highly selective recruitment, as well as the extensive psychological testing, training, and certification of our Campus Police.
9. An examination of AAU institutions indicates that 20 of the 26 private colleges and universities now have armed public safety officers. (See Appendix B.) This ratio of 77% armed is significantly higher than in previous years.

### Deliberations

At the beginning of the information gathering process, several committee members had misgivings about arming the Brandeis Public Safety Officers. Some committee members talked about the idea that a university campus should be a protected space without people bearing firearms, and the graduate student representative spoke about the concerns of some students who come from communities and countries where the police are repressive.

Several committee members changed their minds as a result of the information we learned, especially the reality that even a short delay of Waltham Police getting to campus could have potentially very serious consequences for students, faculty, and/or staff. We acknowledged that the Virginia Tech tragedy has changed the context of these deliberations. As the *Justice* editorial noted on Aug. 28, 2007:

[Brandeis] administrators have done well to reevaluate their approach to campus safety in the light of the tragedy in Virginia. The new communications technology is a positive first step in creating a safer campus environment, and if campus police are eventually armed, students will be able to breathe even easier.

Concerns were raised in the committee that, if the university does proceed to arm our Public Safety Officers, guidelines and expectations need to be developed concerning required training (including diversity training), psychological evaluations, and re-certification, as well as guidelines concerning the use of firearms. We also noted that Brown University has a civilian review panel that is available to those who raise concerns about the use of firearms.

### Committee's Recommendation

There was a consensus on this committee that the ultimate decision as to whether our Brandeis Public Safety Officers should be armed should be made by you, as President of the University.

We recognize that we have learned much through the process of these deliberations and wish that other members of the university community would also have an opportunity to gain this knowledge and participate in some dialogue. On the other hand, we know that if you do decide to begin the process of arming our Public Safety Officers, it will require time to do the training, put guidelines in place, etc., and we all feel the pressure to provide a safer environment as quickly as possible for our university.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Committee that an appropriate process be commenced as soon as possible to arm our Public Safety Officers.

## **Appendix A**

### **Membership of the Committee**

Chair: Peter French, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
Students: Alex Braver and Choon Woo Ha (undergraduates) and Taletha Derrington (graduate student)  
Faculty: Jon Chilingerian\* and Marya Levenson\*  
Staff: Sherri Avery\* and Elisa Gassel\*

Ed Callahan, Director of Public Safety, Mark Collins, VP for Campus Operations, Lorna Miles, SVP for Communications, Rick Sawyer, VP for Student Affairs, and Judith Sizer, SVP and General Counsel, attended Committee meetings as support staff.

\*Brandeis alumni or parent of Brandeis student

### **Calendar of Meetings**

June 5, 2007: Discussion of the charge to the committee and what kind of information committee members would like to have about arming Public Safety Officers.

June 20, 2007: On June 20, the following speakers addressed the committee: Chief Earnest Leffler from the Bentley College Police, Captain William Stanton from the Waltham Police, Chief John Jackson from the Babson College Police, and representatives from the Brandeis University Public Safety Officers Union. Although Babson College does not currently arm its police, there was agreement from all of the speakers that the Brandeis University Public Safety Officers should be armed.

July 19, 2007: We discussed the June 20 speakers' information and reviewed AAU data that had been collected in response to requests from the committee.

August 8 and August 29, 2007: Committee members reflected on what we had learned, options for the university, and how the decision should be made.

## Appendix B

Institution	Status of Public Safety	Armed	Unarmed
<b>AAU-Private Schools</b>		<b>77%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Brandeis University</b>	<b>Unarmed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Brown University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>California Institute Of Technology</b>	<b>Unarmed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Carnegie Mellon University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Case Western Reserve University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Columbia University</b>	<b>Unarmed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Cornell University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Duke University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Emory University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Harvard University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>John Hopkins University</b>	<b>Unarmed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>MIT</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>New York University</b>	<b>Unarmed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Northwestern University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Princeton University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Rice University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Stanford University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Syracuse University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Tulane University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>University Of Chicago</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>University Of Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>University Of Rochester</b>	<b>Unarmed</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>University Of Southern California</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Vanderbilt University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Washington University St. Louis</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Yale University</b>	<b>Armed</b>	<b>1</b>	
		<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>