ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY RESOLUTION
ON THE ARMAMENT AND DEPUTIZATION OF CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY
By Devon Backstrom
ASPSU RESOLUTION: #
DATE COMMITTEE APPROVED: 4/1/2016 Executive Committee
COMMITTEE VOTE: 5 aye - 1 nay - 1 abstain
FIRST READING: 4/11/2016
SECOND READING: 4/24/2016
MOVED BY: David Martinez
SECONDED BY: Liela Forbes

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY RESOLUTION
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TITLE OF RESOLUTION: On the Armament and Deputization of Campus Public Safety
SPONSOR(S) OF RESOLUTION: ASPSU Executive Committee
MOVED BY (OR SUGGESTED BY): David Martinez, Vice President
SECONDED BY: Liela Forbes, Legislative Affairs Director
DATE OF INTRODUCTION TO ASPSU: 4/11/2016
DATE OF FINAL VOTE: [DATE]
FINAL VOTE COUNT: [X-Y-Z or “CONSENSUS APPROVAL”]

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY RESOLVE TO:
1.01. WHEREAS: The students of Portland State University are concerned about campus safety,
1.02. AND WHEREAS: The Faculty Senate has taken a stance opposed to the arming of campus public
safety, and Community Members have expressed similar concerns;
1.03. AND WHEREAS: There has been records of excessive use of force against People of Color,
victimization of women, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities by the police, revealing
systematic history of abuse of power.
1.04. AND WHEREAS: Virtually every police department has become a huge liability for their cities
and states such as in 2016 when Portland reached a settlement which stems from a federal investigation
that found Portland police engaged in a pattern or practice of excessive force against people with mental
illness or perceived to have mental illness.
1.05. AND WHEREAS: This is not an isolated phenomena to any particular police district, Multnomah
county sheriff's office was also charged with misconduct as have various precincts across the state,
including the University of Oregon’s Police Department which recently underwent a whistleblower
scandal within their police department, proving this to be a systemic issue within the ordinary operation
of enforcement itself;
1.06. AND WHEREAS: Enforcement has been repeatedly associated with homicides such as in the case
of: James Chasse Jr. in Portland OR 2006, Oscar Grant in Oakland CA 2009, Keaton Otis in Portland OR
2010, Jose Guerena in Tucson AZ 2011, Manuel Diaz in Anaheim CA 2012, Michael Brown in Ferguson
MO 2014, Carlos Mejia in Salinas CA 2014, Eric Garner in Staten Island NY 2014, and many more;
1.07. AND WHEREAS: The U.S Justice Department has found extensive evidences of discrimination
and harassment by police practices to communities of color, women, LGBTQIA+, and people with
disabilities;
1.08. AND WHEREAS: While Mass Shootings are traumatic incidents and some have occurred on
university campuses affecting the student community, numerically, there is a small chance of that
happening. Additionally, there is no empirical evidence that an armed police force on campus would
prevent a mass shooting incident from occurring.
1.09. AND WHEREAS: Our police are becoming increasingly militarized as a result of the U.S.
Government’s Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, which transfers excess military hardware
to police departments meaning the problem is likely to grow worse;
1.10. AND WHEREAS: The presence of guns often escalates disputes into violent and often fatal
confrontations, and the presence of armed officers will increase the risk of both gun-related violence, and
the far more common miscarriages of Justice;
1.11. AND WHEREAS: The knowledge of individuals carrying weapons increases the tension of all
situations;
1.12. AND WHEREAS: Portland State University mission and values include: “Enhance social qualities of urban life;”; “The University conducts community service [that] reflect issues important to the community,”; “PSU is committed to providing access and opportunity to learners from regional, national, and international communities,”; “PSU values diversity and fosters a climate of mutual respect,” and an armed university police force infringes upon those values;

1.13. AND WHEREAS: ASPSU values diverse and healthy freedom of expression, we find it is our responsibility to promote inclusive safety for Portland State University students, including many Students of color, women, and LGBTQIA+ identified students who feel unsafe around firearms.

1.14. AND WHEREAS: Many Students of color, women, and LGBTQIA+ identified students feel intimidated around armed police;

1.15. AND WHEREAS: Other strategies exist which have been shown to genuinely promote safety;

1.16. AND WHEREAS: According to the Portland State University Campus Public Safety Task force the proposal costs at least 1.5 million and will continue increasing yearly

1.18. AND WHEREAS: Campus Police are charged with not only enforcing laws but also University Policy;

1.19. AND WHEREAS: Freedom of Information requests in 2010 and since resulted in the release of documents providing evidence of monitoring and tracking of student activists by university administrations across the country showing activists are threatened with unwarranted punitive measures by Universities across the country;

1.20 AND WHEREAS: The Faculty signed and sent a letter to the Board of Trustees concerning the code of conduct violations students received for peaceful protest showing the university is already willing to use their rules outside of their intent to silence dissenting opinions.

1.21. AND WHEREAS: Activism and advocacy are important parts of the development of students;

1.22. AND WHEREAS: There is a police precinct less than 1 mile from campus servicing over 350 police officers;

1.23. AND WHEREAS: The Portland Police Bureau already dedicates 5-6 officers a week to patrol duties of the Portland State Campus and surrounding blocks;

**LET IT BE KNOWN**

2.1. LET IT BE KNOWN: ASPSU supports SEIU and campus public safety in protecting our campus and the rights of its staff, but does not feel this justifies supporting Deputization or Arming of said security force;

2.2. LET IT BE KNOWN: ASPSU supports hazard pay, extensive training on conflict resolution, Power Privilege and Oppression training and increased numbers of personnel for Campus Public Safety regardless of their armament or deputization status;

2.3. LET IT BE KNOWN: ASPSU is resolved to protect the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and seeks to foster an environment that allows peaceful expression of ideals, and considers a University operated firearm carrying police force to be an obstacle to that expression;

2.5. LET IT BE KNOWN: ASPSU is committed towards fostering an environment which can be inclusive, and accessible to all students irrespective of their background, race, gender, or identity and sees the concerns of these groups of students to be every bit as legitimate as students who have never encountered an issue with enforcement;

2.6 LET IT BE KNOWN: ASPSU feels that after millions of dollars of investment, countless hours and dozens of advocacy groups have attempted to tackle this problem that both PSU and ASPSU are ill-equipped to ad-hoc solve an issue which has its roots in the system of enforcement itself;
2.7 LET IT BE KNOWN: ASPSU finds that there is an inherent conflict of interest in having a police force which is managed by a University Administration from a policy perspective and considers these oversights to make students more vulnerable to an armed police force which enforces University Policy as if it were law;

BE IT RESOLVED

3.1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: ASPSU supports having a security force which is not armed with firearms;

3.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: ASPSU is against having a deputized police force;

3.3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: ASPSU calls for the immediate disarmament of active officers where no credible threat exists.

3.4 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT: ASPSU calls for the long term disarmament and dismantling of the University Police force;