



PARENTS ASSOCIATION
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August 30, 2007

Sally Mason, President
The University of Iowa
101 Jessup Hall

Dear President Mason:

As the University of Iowa Parents Association Advisory Board, we are aware that many of our universities are assessing their security methods and procedures in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech horror. We are certainly convinced that violence in our society and on our campuses is an extremely complex issue which requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Counseling, medications, substance abuse treatment, anger management, early intervention and assessment can all help to build a series of safety nets for the campus. Even then we know that there are no guarantees and that tragic events may occur.

At our last meeting on August 25, 2007, the board met with Mr. Charles Green, Assistant Vice President and the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Green discussed the ongoing assessment of campus security and the recommendations and report which are being prepared for the Board of Regents. We are very grateful and certainly commend the Board of Regents and the University for adopting a proactive stance in an effort to anticipate potential problem situations. The out door warning system for campus as well as the Hawk Alert/Connect Ed and mass email capabilities represents a significant investment in the security of the campus.

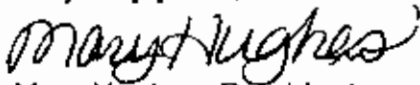
As parents, we look to our schools as safe havens where education and development are paramount. Tragic events have shown that belief is not always justified. Obviously the safety of our students and staff is our overriding concern, and the assessment of the security on campus is an area of great importance to us.

One of the recommendations in that comprehensive report relates to the ability of the campus police to carry firearms in the normal course of their daily duties. The Parents Association Advisory Board unanimously passed a motion in support of that recommendation. We do not take this issue lightly. The Board feels that since the campus police are trained and certified law enforcement officers, they should have all the standard tools available to them in the performance of their duties. The University of Iowa with thirty thousand students and additional faculty and staff is the size of many



municipalities and represents a real cross section of personalities, issues, and pressures. University officers may retrieve their firearms from a certain location if the situation warrants. However, in some cases that delay in obtaining firearms can cause critical time to be lost. Most other universities of similar size including all of the Big Ten schools do equip their officers with appropriate firearms. In this post Virginia Tech era, the role of the campus police as first responders is crucial. Recruitment of responsible and competent officers is vital for the protection of those individuals on campus and the Parents Board gratefully supports the recommendation that those officers be allowed to protect all of the citizens of the University of Iowa community.

Very truly yours,



Mary Hughes, President

University of Iowa Parents Association Advisory Board

cc: Parents Association Advisory Board Members
Charles Green, Assistant Vice President and Director, Department of Public Safety
Phillip E. Jones, Vice President for Student Services
Belinda Marner, Assistant Vice President for Student Services/Administrative
Liaison to the Board
Douglas True, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations