

HOSTING POLICE ACADEMY OF NW INDIANA ON CAMPUS:

Council of Deans

Minutes of the Meeting of September 2, 1998

5. Provost Austensen informed the Council regarding the possibility of VU being the site of the first Police Academy of Northwest Indiana. The President's Council is favorably inclined with certain important caveats:
 - A. Our agreement will be for one year only and does not imply any further commitment.
 - B. VU will not incur any costs.
 - C. The police cadets will not be in uniform and will not carry guns.
 - D. They will not arrive in police cars.
 - E. They will be allowed to use the ARC but only at those times that will not interfere with student and faculty use (between 6:00 and 7:30 a.m.).

Other relevant information includes: The 42 police departments of the region desiring to do this have permission from the State but no funding. They have come to us because we are considered a very desirable site, especially since we are located in Porter County and not Lake County. The program will be for 12 weeks, 5 days a week beginning in January and will involve between 40-50 cadets. One classroom will be provided in Kroencke Hall. Parking will be in the lot between Guild Memorial and Heidbrink. Long-term site may well be the Porter County jail.

While there are serious concerns regarding the compatibility of a police academy with VU's mission, the University is willing to do this as an act of good citizenship. The local police departments do face a very genuine problem in having their cadets qualify through the Plainsfield police academy. The local police departments have been extremely helpful to VU.

The Council responded favorably to the proposal. Provost Austensen indicated that procedurally it is important to present the proposal to the Faculty Senate and the Student Senate. While the response of these two bodies will be solicited, the senates will not be asked to vote on the issue.