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I am writing to share an update on the Campus Safety Task Force, which has now concluded its work. I want to begin by thanking the students, faculty, and staff who served on the task force for their incredibly thoughtful and dedicated participation during our many meetings over the course of this academic year. You can be assured they did a beautiful job representing many different perspectives and bringing forth a wide variety of ideas as we considered how to enhance safety on our campus and in our surrounding communities.

You will find links to three different documents in this email. The first is a document summarizing the results of our campus safety survey, which you can review [Uih Ig`jb](#). A total of 643 of you took the time to fill this out and provide very helpful suggestions and comments, and the entire Task Force thanks those of you who participated. We were heartened to learn that the overwhelming majority of you feel quite safe on our campus, although the sense of safety decreases to some extent on West Campus. You will see that the Campus Safety Measures working group addresses that disparity in its recommendations with some concrete suggestions for increasing the vibrancy, lighting, and campus safety officer presence on West Campus. You can find the complete set of recommendations from the Campus Safety Measures working group [Uih Ig`jb](#). The Community Partnerships working group has also made a number of recommendations that you can find [Uih Ig`jb](#). It is very important to Rhodes that we be a good partner for our neighbors, and the group has offered very thoughtful suggestions about how we can develop deeper relationships with the neighborhoods that surround us.

The most difficult issue confronting the Task Force was whether we should move to having some armed and sworn officers on campus. The Task Force decided not to recommend the addition of armed officers on campus at this time, although we will, of course, continue to work with the Memphis Police Department as a condition of the contract. An armed officer would ever be the first choice for responding to an on-campus situation would be in the event of an active shooter, and our relationship with the Memphis Police Department and ongoing active shooter training exercises with them means that the MPD would be able to respond to any such event on campus extremely quickly. We also have an armed Clarion patrol vehicle patrolling the campus.

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