

## Independent Review Committee Charge

On Wednesday September 23, a small group of protesters from Terre Haute, Indiana came to a public street and sidewalk in Greencastle, on the edge of the DePauw University campus. With their placards and chants, they taunted and provoked students and others who passed by.

As the crowd grew and became active, a series of police and safety officers, from different enforcement units (local, county and state) arrived to the scene --some directly called in by the University, others arriving through the spreading news of the escalating event. With the arrival of significantly more DePauw students as the demonstration continued, interactions and tensions escalated among those gathered at the site. This resulted in a series of steps taken by the police at the scene including the removal of one Caucasian student and the exercise of a police take down procedure and handcuffing of an African American student. An African American University staff member also ended up on the ground. (The students were temporarily detained, though released at the scene.)

These events have caused considerable confusion and pain on the DePauw campus, and bring about concern regarding how DePauw community members engage with—or are engaged by—local and regional police forces. These events have also proved to be difficult for the Greencastle Police Department.

In response to the above, and in an effort to create a safe and secure environment for all in the community, President Brian W. Casey – with the full support of Mayor Sue Murray and the City of Greencastle – charges a committee of external advisers (to be known as the Independent Review Committee) to review the events of September 23<sup>rd</sup> and to offer forward-looking recommendations designed to improve the safety and security of all those who are part of this community.

The Committee shall be provided open access to DePauw and Greencastle witnesses of the incident and shall have the opportunity to speak to members of the Greencastle and DePauw communities and shall address the following topics:

- *Preparedness*: To what degree was DePauw University prepared for the events of September 23, and the ways in which it engages Greencastle during such events. How might University and City officials improve preparedness for future events and should a defined University protocol be developed?
- *Roles and Responsibilities* – To what degree were roles and responsibilities of the various responding offices and agencies and the University understood and how might the City and University further clarify such questions for future events?
- *Internal Communication* – To what extent did University and City communication activities – both formal and informal – comport with best practices and how might efforts be improved in similar situations?
- *Student Safety and Security* – How did the response to the day’s events, by both the University and the public safety officers, affect the sense of safety and security felt by students? How might this be improved? Did local law enforcement respond appropriately to the situation and was its use of force appropriate?
- *Equality of Treatment* – Did any aspect of the incident or the University’s or public officials’ responses to it raise concerns that the treatment of students and community members was related to their color, gender and/or LGBTQ status?
- *Future* – How might DePauw and the City of Greencastle and its offices continue to develop open lines of communications and jointly-understood priorities and practices to develop increased trust in service of creating a safe and secure community?