

Campus

THE BATTALION

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Man passes checkpoint with knives, stun gun

CHICAGO (AP) — Private security workers at O'Hare International Airport have been suspended for allowing a man to pass through a checkpoint with several knives and a stun gun on his carry-on luggage.

Federal law enforcement officials said there was no indication the man was involved in terrorism. They said he told them he owned the knives for protection and mistakenly packed them in a plastic bag rather than his luggage before leaving for the airport.

In a statement issued Monday, Atlanta-based Argencbright Security Inc. said the night of the workers they were hired to operate the screening operations at United Airlines' terminal had been suspended pending a company inquiry. The Federal Aviation Administration is also investigating.

BRASHARES

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and voted on whether to recommend her as president, said Kate Petree, MSC Council executive vice president of human resources and a senior meteorology major.

Brashares was the only applicant for the position.

"It is in the MSC Council contract that we vote for the new president, even though she was serving as interim," Petree said.

Petree said the council chose Brashares because of her leadership abilities.

"She can provide a better focus now that she is named president, and we feel she will be able to accomplish many goals," Petree said.

Brashares said she is looking forward to serving in the role and believes she can work with the council on all the issues.

"I know the issues since I have been here for the past three years," Brashares said. "I will be looking to my peers for advice and guidance, but I feel comfortable after serving as interim."

HALLS

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more time to prepare incoming residents for such a drastic policy change, Sasse said. Currently, only coed halls have 24-hour visitation. Single-sex halls are allowed visitors from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Sasse said the department may run a pilot program to test round-the-clock visitation in single-sex halls. Not all residence halls would have to become 24-hour halls, he said.

"Each hall is going to have to look at their own situation," Sasse said.

Staff Council Chairman Matt Fuller, a Hart Hall resident adviser and senior biology major, said that he was unsure whether all single-sex halls would adopt the policy.

"There has not been anything proposed on a campus level and I really don't know if there will be," Fuller said.

Continued RHA action will bring increased involvement from Residence Life and Staff Council, Fuller said.

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PROGRAMS

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received a copy of the survey results, he immediately formed a working group to evaluate "the way we're doing business."

"We take that survey seriously," Sherman said. We intend to find out what truth there is in the survey and fix what we can fix."

Paul R. Rindfleisch, a Ph.D. student in the geography department, did not respond to the survey, but has discussed its results with his department colleagues.

"I think the results of the survey represent in large part the opinion of just a few people who were really dissatisfied with their experience in the department. I do believe that some of the concerns raised are legitimate, though," Rindfleisch said.

One of nine categories used to grade the programs is career guidance and placement services. Students complained that the program only prepares them for academic careers, while many students plan non-academic careers.

"Most graduate departments around the country prepare their students for academic careers. When their former students go to big research schools and become famous, that's how they receive recognition. I don't think it's anything peculiar about our department," Rindfleisch said.

The A&M political science department had 28 participants and received a "B," which is higher than average. Political science department head Dr. Patricia A. Hurley believes that the program may owe its good marks to mentorship.

"We do a lot to mentor our students. They have good relationships with our faculty. Most of

our students who have gone on to the professional world remember their time in our department fondly," Hurley said.

The A&M biology department had the most participants with 29 responding to the survey. The department received a grade of "C+," lower than average.

Dr. Mark Zoran, graduate advisor for the biology department, said the survey favored current students over graduates of the program.

"Twenty-five of the 29 responses were current students, so we really haven't heard from our students that have graduated and are already in the world working," Zoran said.

Zoran also believes that there should have been more questions asked about course work.

"However, the survey does tell us where students would like to see improvement. Now we can go ask them more specifically," Zoran said.

NAGPS President Kimberly Suedkamp Wells, one of the survey's authors and a doctoral student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, believes the survey is breaking new ground.

"We've given graduate students the opportunity to be involved in their education. We hope now that department heads and other administrators will use the survey to start a dialogue with students about problems," Wells said. "Because of our survey, many students now feel like they've been heard."

More than 32,000 participants nationwide responded to the online study. The participants included 27,258 current Ph.D. students, 4,147 Ph.D. recipients (from 1995 or later) and 628 former Ph.D. students who did not receive Ph.D.s (since 1995).

More information may be found at the NAGPS Website, <http://www.nagps.org>.

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