

## FACULTY AGENDA ITEM NO 17-4

Date: 17 March 2017

Submitted by: Thomas Prasch on behalf of Kerry Wynn

SUBJECT: Resolution of Washburn University Faculty Senate Against Concealed Carry on Campus

### Description:

We, the elected representatives of the faculty of Washburn University, oppose legislation allowing concealed carry of firearms on Washburn University's campus. We respectfully request the legislature of the state of Kansas to continue to exempt colleges and universities from the provisions of the Personal and Family Protection Act.

Colleges and universities in the United States have historically been designated gunfree zones, reflecting their mission as educational institutions. The concealed carry of firearms on campus--in residence halls, classrooms, and arenas--threatens to restrict open discussion and debate, presents dangers for the physical safety of students, faculty, and staff, and hampers the ability of institutions to recruit faculty and staff and to thrive within their budgets.<sup>i</sup>

We strongly support efforts to make college campuses gun-free zones for students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members. We ask the legislature to respect the rights of institutions to determine their own policies according to the needs of each community.

We therefore call on Kansas's legislators to permanently exempt all institutions of higher learning from the mandate to allow concealed carry on campus.

Rationale: As noted above, guns make campuses less safe and cost them more.

Financial Implications: None for the resolution in itself; if it convinces the legislature to change their minds, some savings.

Proposed Effective Date: When passed by the Faculty Senate

Request for Action: *Approval by Faculty Senate*

Approved by: *Faculty Senate on March 27, 2017*

Attachments **Yes**  No  No attachments (box refuses to allow check inside it)

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<sup>i</sup> 1Nathan Deal (Governor of Georgia), Veto of HB 859 ("Veto 9"), retrieved 2/21/17: <https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2016-05-03/deal-issues-2016-veto-statements>; Daniel Webster, et al. "Firearms on Campus: Research Evidence and Policy Implications." Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, 2016. Retrieved 2/20/17: [http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/\\_pdfs/GunsOnCampus.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/_pdfs/GunsOnCampus.pdf) ; Sara Shepard, "KU police adding more positions, equipment to prepare

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for campus carry,” Lawrence Journal World, February 5, 2017, retrieved 3/13, 2017:  
<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2017/feb/15/ku-police-adding-more-positions-equipmentprepare-/>