

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION

FSR 2007/2008-08

I. RESOLUTION NAME:

Continued Prohibition of Guns on Campus

II. STATED RESOLUTION:

The Faculty Senate at the University of Central Oklahoma wishes to express its gravest reservations concerning the recent passage of Oklahoma House Bill 2513. Permitting students to carry concealed weapons on campus is not the solution to the national problem of increased violence at colleges and universities. We urge that our legislators support the recommendations of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force (CLASS) published in January of 2008 (available at <http://www.okhighered.org/class/>). Nowhere in this document is it suggested that guns on campus would lead to heightened security.

III. JUSTIFICATION:

House Bill 2513, written by Rep. Jason Murphey, passed the Oklahoma House of Representatives on March 13, 2008. Murphey has stated publicly that, if the bill is approved, he will advocate the further arming of both faculty and staff, and students who are 18 years or older.

House Bill 2513 was advanced with the strong support of the National Rifle Association, but no efforts were made to assess whether students or academics thought this was a good thing to do. No polls of campus security officers were taken; no polls of students were taken; no polls of administrators were taken; no polls of faculty were taken. Essentially, no data at all was collected to provide *reasons* for this bill.

Furthermore, no "impact survey" has been done to assess the potential effects that permitting students to carry concealed weapons would have. In addition to increased risk of harm to innocent bystanders, other matters need to be assessed, such as the costs of improved life insurance policies for faculty and staff, and a well-founded hesitancy to give students failing grades. There is more at stake in this legislation than initially meets the eye.

IV. BUDGET IMPACT:

None

Submitted by:

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Former UCO Senate Presidents:

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Date: March 24, 2008

Referred To: Faculty Welfare & Development