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Georgia Southern University

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Resolution Approved by the Senate: 3/23/2016-passed unanimously

Campus Communication Plans for carrying guns legislation?

Submitted by Kathy Albertson

478-0884

3/7/2016

Question:

Is there a communication already in place somewhere for faculty, staff, and students to refer to if/when tomorrow's (March 8) legislature approves carrying weapons on campus? If there is no information readily available, how will the university's occupants know policies and procedures for this legislation?

Rationale:

As a faculty member who has many overly stressed students in class on a daily basis, I am unaware of how to proceed in class, in my office, or on campus once this law passes (the media suggests that it will): <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/ad-targeting-campus-carry-gun-bill-airs-as-vote-ne/nqfYG/>

Response:

3/8/2016: Senate Moderator spoke with Teresa Thompson, VPSAEM and Laura McCullough, Interim Police chief about this. Until a final bill is passed and signed into law, administration does not know what the form will be, and so has not formulated any policy to date. If/when that happens, the provisions will be studied, and policies formulated and promulgated to all campus constituents through campus meetings, SOAR, the GeorgeAnne, etc.

Laura McCullough did reiterate that it is against Georgia Law to possess a handgun under the age of 21; any such individuals found in possession are subject to arrest. This covers a majority of our students.

As of March 8, 2016, we will have to wait and see.

Pat

Minutes, 3/23/2016: HB 859, Campus Carry Legislation: I know you are going to talk about this a little bit with the resolution, campus carry legislation update. As you know, the USG continues to support the current law and has been very vocal from the Chancellor's level down to be talking about that particular legislation. It's currently on the Governor's desk. He did ask for some recommendations for amendments to the legislation. The legislative body said that they didn't have time and they were not making them, so it remains on his desk. Have no idea how he will come down on that particular piece of legislation. He's got some competing legislation as you know from the legislature that deals with religious rights kinds of activities and that looked like it could have been a slight backlash to his pushing the campus carry bill back, but at any rate there's a couple of things like that that are sitting on his desk that will just remain there and we are doing what we can to try to influence them. The Board of Regents did finally contact me and ask that as a President I submit a letter to the Governor which I did in strong protest of signing of that legislation, so we were starting to get at least a little bit permission to move forward to have our campuses perspectives known, and I'll leave it at that, because like I said, you've got a resolution coming forward to speak to that as well. And I think there's an appetite for that right now.

Has there been any plans for communication in terms of the campus carry legislation? In short answer, no, because they were waiting to find out what actually came down in terms of final legislation. Got the short answer on that one at which point when they do know what's actually there, it will be publicized. Board of Regents will have to make their initial policies and then we'll have to make our own.

HB 859 Resolution

Lisa Abbott (CLASS): The resolution reads, "The Faculty Senate of Georgia Southern University stands with University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby and the Board of Regents in opposing Georgia House Bill 859 (the "campus conceal and carry bill") and asks Governor Nathan Deal to veto it.

The justification has been on the Senate board and you should have picked up a copy of this. I have more if you want them, but significantly Faculty Senates across the System are voting on this resolution to get it to Governor Deal so that he will hopefully veto this insanity.

Pat Humphrey (COSM) Senate Moderator and Chair, Senate Executive Committee: Is there a second? Several seconds including Richard Flynn. Is there any discussion on this? Seeing none, all in favor, please say aye. All opposed? We'll note that the resolution was passed unanimously.