

Approved by the Senate: 11/16/2011

Not Approved by the Senate:

Approved by the President: 12/1/2011

Nor Approved by the President:

Forums Regarding the Construction of a Shooting Sports Center

Submitted by: Robert Costomiris

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11/2/2011

Motion:

I move that the university administration host three separate fora (one each for students, faculty, and staff) in order to inform the university community of the administration's intention to build a Shooting Center on campus and provide the university community with the opportunity to learn more about the project and ask questions about it.

Rationale:

The proposal to build a Shooting Sports Center on Campus will impact the safety of all members of the campus community. The institution of Georgia Southern and everyone who works here or attends university here will benefit by learning more about this project and discussing its merits.

Senate Response:

Minutes: 11/16/2011: 10. A Motion to Schedule Three Fora Related to Guns on Campus: Robert Costomiris (CLASS):

The Motion: "I move that the university administration host three separate fora (one each for students, faculty, and staff) in order to inform the university community of the administration's intention to build a Shooting Center on campus and provide the university community with the opportunity to learn more about the project and ask questions about it." The motion was seconded.

President Keel was in favor of an information session, but did not understand the need to have three separate fora.

Moderator Krug (CLASS) asked Costomiris if he would entertain a friendly amendment to modify the number of fora and the restrictions on participants. He said "No."

Jan Steirn (CLASS) agreed there should be more than one forum because we're not all going to be available at the same time, but was not so sure of the need to split into only faculty, staff, or students.

Costomiris (CLASS) thought each of these communities may have different issues that they wish to have addressed that might be specific to those communities.

Tina Belge (Vice President for Academic Affairs for SGA) thought it might be beneficial for students to see the various sides that could be offered in one large forum. She thought it might create a more transparent relationship, especially with an issue this controversial, one that is going to affect all three parties. She suggested two fora, in order to accommodate MW and TTh schedules.

Mikelle Calhoun (COBA) agreed we should separate them by faculty, staff, and students, but suggested others be allowed to come and listen. She suspected if students come and faculty are there, faculty will take over, or the students will expect faculty to do so.

Lowell Mooney (COBA) noted that the students have already requested a forum. VP Thompson said she had already spoken with the SGA President and the Chair of the Staff Council, both of whom would be happy with a single session, but said two would be fine in order to accommodate different schedules.

Costomiris (CLASS) stated that the students who had already accepted it form a very restricted group of students. Those he had spoken to did not accept it and are ten-to-one opposed to it. He thought there were a lot of students who would like to express their views instead of being restricted to the narrow body that had spoken on the matter.

President Keel thought Costomiris had just built a case for eliminating the Faculty Senate.

VP Thompson felt President Keel was exactly right.

Costomiris (CLASS) called this an issue that needs a lot of public exposure. He said that many faculty and students had only glimmers of a project that could change the face of this University.

VP Thompson said that, just as the Senate is a representative faculty body, the SGA is a representative student body, and should be given the same respect. Second, she has had both faculty and students tell her they support the range, the student newspaper has come out for it, the SGA supports it, and the students at the RAC. People are pushing both for and against.

Tina Belge (SGA) said this was something that had been talked about numerous times, and there was still a strong majority vote to support this on campus. She also noted the SGA had as much validity as any other such elected representative body.

Chris Geyerman (CLASS) sided with Tina Belge because we champion as an institution of higher education getting people in the same room with different points of view and there is inherent value in interacting with them, and that we can all learn from one another. While he agreed faculty, students, and staff may have different concerns, we all could benefit from knowing what those are.

Mikelle Calhoun (COBA) saw each dedicated forum less as excluding attendance, and more as a chance for each group to express group-specific concerns and questions. Moderator Krug asked if someone wanted to call the question, and someone did. The call motion was approved. The Motion for forums, which Costomiris read again, was then Approved.