

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CURRENT POLICY PROHIBITING GUNS ON CAMPUS AND IN
OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ALTER CURRENT POLICY**

**BY
THE FACULTY SENATE
OF THE KNOXVILLE CAMPUSES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate and Faculty of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville are concerned about campus safety, and the welfare of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campuses, and

WHEREAS America's colleges and universities are among the safest environments, and

WHEREAS even on gun-free campuses students, faculty, staff, and visitors are occasionally exposed to threats and retaliation from disgruntled or disturbed individuals, and

WHEREAS the knowledge that individuals could be carrying concealed weapons would increase the tension in such situations, and

WHEREAS weapons can be a threat to academic integrity, and

WHEREAS colleges and universities need to retain the right to self-governance, and

WHEREAS more guns would probably result in more fatal suicide attempts, a particular concern given the vulnerability of the traditional college-aged student, and

WHEREAS, by facilitating the escalation of disputes into violent and perhaps fatal confrontations, allowing guns on campus would increase the risk for gun-related violence on college campuses and the surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, in the highly unlikely event of an attempted mass shooting, other armed students and staff, who would not be trained in how to respond in such a crisis, could open fire and injure or kill people in the crossfire, and

WHEREAS university and college police forces (with the assistance of local law enforcement and other first responders) are the appropriate individuals to handle those infrequent events of violence, and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the Knoxville campuses of the University of Tennessee supports the current state policy prohibiting the possession of firearms on campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the Knoxville campuses of the University of Tennessee strongly opposes any legislation that would alter the current policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the Knoxville campuses of the University of Tennessee urges legislators to vote against any such legislation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the Knoxville campuses of the University of Tennessee encourages the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to give high priority to campus safety and to support additional resources which allow for continued improvements that will aid campuses in their efforts to maintain safety and security.