

UW-Madison Senate Resolution on Concealed Carry

Whereas on 1 December 2003, the Faculty Senate adopted Faculty Document 1751 registering its opposition to legislation being considered by the state legislature that would have permitted concealed carry of firearms:

Whereas the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Rules of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System 18.10(a) states that “no person may carry, possess or use any dangerous weapon on university lands or in university buildings or facilities, except with the written approval of the chief administrative officer or for law enforcement purposes;”

And, whereas the university faculty is dedicated to open debate and the broad discussion of all ideas;

And, whereas legislation to permit the carrying of concealed weapons would introduce the risk of bodily harm into that debate;

Therefore, the members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate categorically oppose any legislation that would permit the carrying of concealed weapons on any University of Wisconsin System property including all its buildings and all of its grounds.

And, **whereas** when parallel legislation in 2011 did legalize concealed carry of firearms in Wisconsin superseding University of Wisconsin System (UWS) administrative code, the university requested that its lands, buildings, and facilities be exempt from the provisions of the new statute;

And, **whereas** the 2011 law did not provide for that exemption but did allow employers to take certain actions regarding work places and employees;

And, **whereas** the university responded to that allowance, in order to protect our students, faculty and staff, by taking several steps including the posting of all buildings and facilities with signs that prohibit firearms and weapons in those areas;

And, **whereas** UW System Administration promulgated a policy prohibiting employees from carrying firearms/weapons in the course and scope of their employment;

And, **whereas** the UW-Madison Faculty Senate endorsed the following policy on 3 October 2011:

No employee shall carry or go armed with a firearm or other weapon at any time while in the course and scope of employment, unless it is necessary as determined and approved in advance by the chancellor or designees, usually the chief of police. This prohibition does not apply to those employed as a law enforcement officer or peace officer. Violation of this provision may subject the employee to discipline or dismissal pursuant to the applicable policies and procedures.

And, **whereas** recent state legislation (LRB-2653/1) was proposed in the Wisconsin Legislature which would: 1) Exempt any college or university in the University of Wisconsin System and any technical college from the law that allows a university or college to prohibit a person from carrying a firearm in any building on its grounds if the person holds a license to carry a concealed weapon; 2) Repeal the provision in the administrative code in which the University of Wisconsin System generally prohibits persons from carrying, possessing, or using any dangerous weapon on university lands or in university buildings or facilities;

And **whereas** the UW-Madison Police Department issued the following statement on October 13, 2015:

Recent school shootings have elevated discussions across the country about gun safety, protecting the rights of citizens, and protecting the safety of our schools. This is a serious issue and there are many questions to consider.

The UW-Madison Police Department and the University of Wisconsin-Madison support existing state law, which appropriately balances individual rights with community safety. We oppose any legislation that would allow citizens to legally carry concealed weapons inside university buildings. Current policies at UW-Madison allow concealed carry on university lands – but not in buildings.

To us, as law enforcement professionals at UWPD, the evidence does not support the idea that our campus would be safer if concealed firearms are allowed in our buildings. In states that allow concealed carry, these mass shooting tragedies have still occurred. According to 2014 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) numbers, you are less likely to become a victim of a violent crime at UW-Madison – which currently does not allow concealed weapons in buildings – than you are in the state of Wisconsin as a whole.

Allowing concealed weapons inside a building like Camp Randall Stadium, filled with 80,000 people, creates a major security issue. The training required to obtain a concealed carry permit is minimal.

We urge our legislators not to change the existing law. Doing so would put the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and guests at risk.

Therefore, be it resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate reiterates its position that allowing concealed carry at the university makes the university less safe and thus opposes legislation that would allow concealed carry at the university; and

Be it further resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate continues to strongly support the policy that no university employee should carry or go armed with a firearm or other weapon in the course of their employment, with exceptions for law enforcement and in cases approved in advance.