

**Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee of the Faculty Senate
Meeting October 28, 2015 11am to 12 pm.**

Present: Deborah Sherman, Chair
Kristina Raattama, General Counsel
Teresa Lucas, Faculty Senate Liaison to Governmental Relations
Saby Moulik, committee member

Discussion

Kristina Raattama, General Counsel, gave us background information regarding the issue and she will be looking into the possible existence of a statute that would indicate that a University has the authority to adopt policies (For example, to prohibit possession, or carrying of guns (concealed or open) or securely encased (as in the trunk of a car). In this case, there would no need to challenge any of the upcoming gun legislation, as the University has the right to make its own policy.

What Kristina will find out is if this statute is in place for Universities in the State Florida System. She has provided us with background information regarding the possible challenges for the Faculty Senate to take a public position regarding gun safety and the possible political issues/ramifications.

As a group we discussed that is appropriate as a Committee/Faculty Senate to be well informed and to make well considered decisions related to the stance/position we wish to take on gun safety.

Kristina suggested that we meet with Michelle Palacio, of Government relations, herself, our committee members and Teresa Lucas to completely and correctly understand the issues, current bills on the floor of the House and Senate, including appeals, and University statutes that may be related to this issue. In light of the politics around the issue, the Health, Safety and Wellness committee can decide to propose or not/propose a motion to our Faculty Senate regarding gun safety. At the very least, the committee members and Faculty Senate will be well informed and have considered carefully the issue.

FIU ACTIONS TO DATE RELATED TO GUN SAFETY

As discussed by Teresa Lucas, Faculty Senate Liaison to Governmental Relations, to date the Faculty Senate of FIU, has endorsed the University State-wide Advisory Councils resolution on "Opposition to Concealed Weapons and Firearms on State University System Campuses and Facilities." The resolution "concurs with the position that the vast majority of education and law enforcement professionals that as an essential element of an overall school safety plan, firearms on campus should be carried only by trained security or police."

QUESTION TO BE CONSIDERED

What we need to discuss as members of the committee and Faculty Senate is do we follow what is being endorsed by the Advisory Council or does FIU feel it is appropriate to take any further leadership role to promote gun safety on state campuses with the possibility of other Universities following our lead? Chief Casas is of the opinion that FIU may play a leadership role~ however, the positives and negatives must be fully considered.

NEXT MEETING

The HSW committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 5, 2015 from 11 am to 12 pm. ROOM TBA. The director of Emergency Management, Ruben Almaguer, will be attending the meeting.

ADDITIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS GUN SAFETY

Michelle Palacio will be asked to meet with the committee, Kristina Raattama, and Teresa Lucas on Thursday, November 5th from 12 to 1 pm (our committee already has a scheduled meeting from 11 am to 12 pm) or as an alternative date, Thursday, November 12th from 1 pm to 2 pm? At least two of our committee members will be available at both those times, as well as Teresa and Kristina. Hopefully, our other committee members would be available to participate either in person or virtually.

TIME FRAME

If as a committee, we decide that a resolution should be presented for vote at our Faculty Senate meeting on December 1st, we would need to have it written within the next three weeks. This is important as the Legislature resumes its deliberations on January 19, 2016.

If either of these dates are not possible, Michelle Palacio has been asked to propose dates and times that would work for her within the next two weeks.

Best,

Deborah Sherman

Chair of Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee of the FIU Faculty Senate