

## Statement of Government Department Faculty on Campus Carry

We, the forty-eight undersigned members of the faculty of the Department of Government at the University of Texas, strongly object to the campus carry legislation that will take effect next year. We enthusiastically endorse the [recently-issued statement](#) of the American Political Science Association, the major association of political scientists in the US, opposing campus carry on the grounds of free speech and security, and calling out the Texas law in particular.

Recognizing that the law is now in its implementation stage, we ask the President of the University to establish broad exclusionary zones in which guns are banned on campus, including classrooms and faculty/TA offices, all dorms (or at least allow students to have gun-free dorm options), on-campus daycare and other child education centers, buildings that include health services, sport venues, and any building where alcohol is served. We do so for the following reasons:

- 1) **The campus carry law as passed offers sufficient discretion to university officials to establish broad exclusionary zones.** Speaker of the Texas House Joe Straus [recently commented](#) that the legislature gave “a lot of authority and flexibility to design a plan” to university presidents.
- 2) **The Campus Carry Law would have a detrimental effect on academic freedom and freedom of expression, which could be mitigated by broad exclusionary zones.** Universities are dedicated to open and frank discussions and debates over fundamental issues. Possession of concealed handguns in this context will threaten the free discussion required for university personnel to carry out our teaching mission, particularly classroom conduct negatively. It also has the potential of affecting the grades given by faculty due to implied threats from permit holders.
- 3) **Many faculty, students and staff are concerned that the Law would negatively affect campus safety, but broad exclusionary zones could offset some of those concerns.** [Campus police do not support campus carry](#) based on safety concerns. The law stipulates that exclusionary zones can be established for campus safety. An accidental or intentional discharge of a concealed handgun could result in serious injury or death not only from the gunshot but also the resulting panic. This can happen in classes as well as hallways and offices,

(Signed)

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