Statement from The Department of Spanish and Portuguese:

We, the faculty, graduate students, and staff members of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese oppose the presence of concealed firearms in our classrooms, offices and social spaces. We strongly believe that concealed guns should not be allowed in any building, or on the perimeters of the campus of the University of Texas, Austin. We further believe that our main goal as a public Research One institution is the fostering of education, critical thinking, and professionalization of students. As an intellectual community, we simply reject the premise that guns will make our classrooms, offices, and social spaces safer.

In the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, our main goal is to educate and train our students to develop new knowledge about the languages, literatures and cultures of the Iberian and Latin American regions, their related diasporas, and their Indigenous, African, and Asian cultures. We would like to continue doing so in an atmosphere of mutual respect and without the threat posed by guns in our classrooms. As a racially, culturally, ethnically, and sexually diverse department, we are aware of the social-power dynamics behind gun culture and the potentially disruptive and dangerous state of affairs the law allowing concealed weapons in campus buildings will bring to our courses, pedagogies, freedom of speech and finally, our security and lives.

Jossianna Arroyo-Martínez, Interim Chair

71 signatures:

Jeff Becker        Elizabeth Hastings        Patrick Lawrence
Raelene Wyse       Yu Rim Kim             Dale Koike
James Staig        Mary Kleba             César Salgado
Stephanie Malak    Aurora Salvador Sanchis Shelly Smartt
Laura Rodriguez    Michael Harney           Mariana Sabino-Salazar
Jossianna Arroyo   Valeria Rey de Castro  Daniel Zarazua
Vivian Flanzer     Samuel Ginsburg         Esther Díaz Martín
Carolyn Dunlap     Sam Cannon             Jane Johnson
Maria Luisa Echavarria Daisy Guzman        Rebecca L. Thompson
Sandra Bernal      Diana Norton            Jessica Carey-Webb
Erika Burt         Naomi Lindstrom         Tia Butler
Robyn Wright       Mina Ogando             Ruth Rubio Rodriguez
Lucia Aramayo      Sarah Jey Whitehead      Ana Cecilia Calle Poveda
Almeida J. Toribio Joshua Frank             Cristina Cabello de Mtz.
Pablo Postigo      Jason Borge              Judith Velazquez Santopietro
Pablo Duran        Sandra Sotelo-Miller     Dinorah Cossio
Lisa Mailloux      Alida Perrine           Whitman Suarez
Olivia Thayer      Kelly McDonough         Adrian Rodríguez Riccelli
Arturo Arias       Sergio Romero           Lorraine Leu
Celia Cordeiro     Madeline Sutherland-Meier Brendan Regan
Catalina Iannone   Gabriela Polit           Nika Setek
Daniela Meireles   Cory Reed               Melissa Murphy
Chiiyo Nishida     Jocelly Meiners          Nicolas Emilfork
Niyi Afolabi