

University of Central Oklahoma Student Congress
5th Meeting of the Fall Session of the 25th Legislature

CFR 21-102

Author: Chair Chao
Co-Author: Vice Chair Hambrick

A resolution declaring the position of the UCO Student Association in regards to firearms on campus;
providing for distribution.

WHEREAS, UCOSA exists to express the views and carry out the will of the students of the University of Central Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, The UCO Student Association Congress has debated and declared a position in regard to firearms on campus annually, and

WHEREAS, UCO President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar does have the ability to allow licensed students, faculty, or staff to carry a concealed firearm under specific circumstances, should the need arise, and

WHEREAS, A 2018 survey of the UCO student body showed that 79.8% of students already felt safe on campus, and only 34.9% of students stated that bringing guns on campus would make them feel safer, and

WHEREAS, A study by Hemenway et al. (2001) Published in the Journal of Injury Prevention found “By a margin of 5 to 1, Americans feel less safe rather than safer as more people in their community begin to carry guns. By margins of at least 9 to 1, Americans do not believe that regular citizens should be allowed to bring their guns into restaurants, college campuses, sports stadium, bars, hospitals or government buildings.”, and

WHEREAS, A Literature Review by Hepburn et al. (2004) Published in the Journal of Aggression and Violent Behavior found that “Case-control studies, ecological time-series, and cross-sectional studies indicate that in homes, cities, states, and regions in the U.S., where there are more guns, both men and women are at a higher risk for homicide, particularly firearm homicide.”, and

WHEREAS, Young adults between the age of 18-25 have the highest rate of suicidal thought (NIMH) and 90% of suicide attempts made with a firearm are fatal (Miller et al. 2004.), and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UCO STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Section 1. The official opinion of the University of Central Oklahoma Student Congress, for the academic year 2020-2021, remains the same as previous declarations – that it opposes any modification to state law that would effectively allow guns on campus at the University of Central Oklahoma for any and all individuals outside of law enforcement personnel and those directly authorized by President Neuhold-Ravikumar.

Section 2. This legislation shall be distributed to the following:
Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar, President of the University of Central Oklahoma
Dr. Charlotte Simmons, co-interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Gary Steward Jr., co-interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Christopher Lynch, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success

Reviewing Committee(s): Accountability, Reform, and Transparency

Committee Recommendation: DO PASS

Action Taken by Congress: PASSED / FAILED

Joshua Chao, Chair of the UCO Student Congress Date

De Shannon, President of the UCO Student Association Date

Legislative Override: [OVERRIDDEN / NOT OVERRIDDEN / POCKET APPROVAL]