



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BRYAN HOBSON WILDENTHAL

April 8, 2016

Chancellor William H. McRaven
The University of Texas System
601 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chancellor McRaven:

As president of The University of Texas at Dallas, I am responsible for recommending to the Regents of The University of Texas System a policy under which UT Dallas will adhere to the requirements of Senate Bill 11, commonly referred to as the Campus Carry Legislation.

As part of my preparation in formulating my recommendations for such a policy, I formed a "Campus Carry Working Group," chaired by Dr. Alex R. Piquero, Ashbel Smith Professor of Criminology and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. This group was comprised of seventeen members of the UT Dallas community representing students, staff, faculty, security personnel, and administrators. Through weekly meetings held throughout the fall semester, the group and I discussed the various aspects of SB 11 and how to implement them effectively, with the clear priorities of following the law and, in so doing, ensuring the safety and security of UT Dallas students, staff, faculty, and guests while maintaining our currently healthy, open, and dynamic campus atmosphere.

In addition to these discussions, the university sought input from many other sources to develop the draft recommendations I am forwarding you with this cover letter. These sources included not only a campus-wide town hall meeting and many submissions to a campus-carry email account we established, but also discussions with our faculty governance group, leaders of other Texas public universities, and University Police Chief Larry Zacharias. This draft policy, when finalized and approved, will guide our implementation, scheduled to become effective August 1, 2016.

I would greatly appreciate any and all comments that you and your colleagues at the UT System could provide about this draft policy statement. It is my understanding that unless the Board of Regents amends my final recommended policy by a two-thirds vote within 90 days, these policies and the resulting guidelines and rules will go into effect at UT Dallas on August 1, 2016.

In order to attend to the various aspects of implementing Senate Bill 11, I have appointed a Campus Carry Implementation Working Group that will be headed once again by Professor Piquero, along with other members of the UT Dallas community. This Group will work on the various guidelines, rules, and practices that are associated with implementing Senate Bill 11 as well as the process for signage with respect to gun-exclusion zones.

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I have asked Professor Piquero to continue in his role as Chair of the UT Dallas Campus Carry Working Group that will monitor the implementation of and any potential impact associated with Senate Bill 11 on students, faculty, staff, and guests. As issues and concerns are raised, this Group will bring them to the attention of the president and whatever further adjustments that are necessary will be made to prioritize the safety and security of our campus and maintain consistency with Senate Bill 11. As well, and in accordance with §411.2031, Texas Government Code, these rules may be amended for purposes necessary to provide for campus safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hobson Wildenthal".

Hobson Wildenthal
President *ad interim*

BHW/kg

Attachment

cc: David E. Daniel, Deputy Chancellor
Steven W. Leslie, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Gerald R. Harkins, Associate Vice President for Campus Safety and Security