



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RICHARD C. BENSON

August 1, 2016

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

Dear Chancellor McRaven:

I am writing in my capacity as president of The University of Texas at Dallas to advise you that I have amended our policy for the carry of concealed handguns. Please see the attached UT Dallas policy statement. As you know, the UT Dallas “campus carry” policy was reviewed by The University of Texas System Board of Regents on July 13, 2016, and the provisions, without changes, take effect today, August 1, 2016.

At UT Dallas, as well as at many other UT System campuses, we took note of the provision in the UT Austin policy that the occupant of an individually held office could prohibit the concealed carry of a handgun in that office. At UT Dallas, we have decided to adopt this UT Austin provision verbatim. The new language will be found in Section 6, Offices, which I also present here:

*“The occupant of an office to which the occupant has been solely assigned and is not generally open to the public is permitted, at the occupant’s discretion, to prohibit the concealed carry of a handgun in that office. An occupant who chooses to exercise this discretion must provide oral notice that the concealed carry of a handgun in the occupant’s office is prohibited. In addition, if the occupant’s duties ordinarily entail meeting people who may be license holders, the occupant will make reasonable arrangements to meet them in another location.”*

A minor change has also been made in Section 5, Exclusions Zones, of our policy statement to align with the new provision in Section 6. The first sentence of Section 5 has been changed from:

*“The essential core facilities of the university, including classrooms, multi-person administrative offices, individual faculty offices, libraries, and advisement and testing facilities, will all be accessible to individuals carrying concealed weapons in accord with their licenses and the law.”*

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to:

*“The essential core facilities of the university, including classrooms, multi-person administrative offices, multi-person faculty and staff offices, libraries, and advisement and testing facilities, will all be accessible to individuals carrying concealed weapons in accord with their licenses and the law.”*

I have underlined the changed words.

This is a good opportunity for me to alert you to the fact that I have asked the UT Dallas campus carry working group to assess the efficacy of our policy over the next few months. The working group will also review the campus carry policies at other UT System campuses to see if there are better approaches that we might want to adopt. I have asked the working group to not make final recommendations until we are well into the fall semester, as I would like to have the advantage of knowing how our policy is working on a fully populated campus.

Thank you for your consideration of this change in the UT Dallas campus carry policy, and thank you for bringing it to the attention of the UT System Board of Regents. I welcome your review.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Benson  
President

RCB/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