Sample Faculty Senate Resolution on Gun Violence

**WHEREAS**, the campus and facilities of our university are places of reflection, discussion, study, research and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, faculty, administration, campus police, staff and students share a priority of keeping a safe and welcoming campus; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of unrestricted weapons and concealed carry are—at best—unlikely to enhance the university’s mission, campus safety or perceptions of a welcoming environment, and may actually be contrary to these; and

**WHEREAS**, since the Columbine High School massacre on April 20, 1999, there have been more than 200 incidents where firearms have been discharged at educational institutions, ranging from elementary schools to university campuses, resulting in more than 250 deaths and 400 injuries;[[1]](#endnote-1) and

**WHEREAS**, the United States accounts for ownership of nearly half of all civilian-owned firearms in the world and has a gun homicide rate that is more than 25 times higher than that of other high-income nations;[[2]](#endnote-2) and

**WHEREAS**, more than 21,000 individuals in the United States each year die by gun suicide, accounting for half of all suicides in the country, leading to a gun suicide rate that is eight times higher than that of other high-income nations;[[3]](#endnote-3) and

**WHEREAS**, we will no longer abide the deaths of our students, colleagues and friends as an acceptable price to pay for a small minority to enjoy continued access to machines designed solely for killing:

**RESOLVED**, that we call on the administration of this institution to ensure that the campus and facilities of our university [remain/become] gun-free zones; and

**RESOLVED**,that we call on the administration of this institution to vigorously oppose any municipal, state or federal legislation that would limit the ability of this institution to keep guns off of our campus and out of our facilities; and

**RESOLVED**, that we call on the administration of this institution to vigorously advocate for the lifting of the ban on federal funding for the study of gun violence as a matter of academic freedom and in order to identify evidence-based practices to curb gun violence; and

**RESOLVED**, that we call on the administration of this institution to vigorously advocate for municipal, state and federal legislation that would implement popular, commonsense gun control measures that respect individuals’ constitutional rights; and

**RESOLVED**,that we call on the administration of this institution to devote staff and resources to mental health measures that can help identify and provide assistance to at-risk individuals and enhance campus safety.

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School\_shooting [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/03/americas/us-gun-statistics/index.html [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Suicide-in-USA-FACT-SHEET-090817.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-3)