

**The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Student Government Association**

**A Resolution Concerning Firearms on University Campuses**

*Whereas*, Senate Bill 51 and 399, an act to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1315, would allow all full-time faculty and staff at any public, post-secondary institution in the State of Tennessee who are not otherwise prohibited by law to be authorized to carry handguns at all times on campus premises for which they are employed,

*Whereas*, Senate Bill 398, an act to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1315, would allow any law enforcement officer, retired law enforcement officer, active, retired, and honorably discharged member of the United States Military and Military Reserves in good standing, and Reserved Officer Training cadet (ROTC) to carry handguns on campus premises of public, post-secondary institutions,

*Whereas*, Senate Bill 397, an act to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17 and Title 55, Chapter 50, would allow any person under the age of twenty-one to transport a rifle or shotgun in or on a privately-owned motor vehicle if the ammunition is not in the chamber or cylinder with no clip/magazine containing ammunition is inserted in the weapon, as well as, those individuals over the age of twenty-one years of age to carry a firearm in the state except as otherwise prohibited by law,

*Whereas*, allowing weapons on university campuses would increase danger to students, faculty, staff, visitors, and areas communities,

*Whereas*, allowing weapons on university campuses present the possibility of increased crime, violence, and injury,

*Whereas*, campuses with weapons not used for day-to-day campus security operations would experience a greater need for increased funding to adequately protect the campus community in a time when higher education is suffering financial hardships.

*Be it enacted* that the UTC Student Senate under Article V, Section 5, Clause D of the UTC Student Government Association Constitution,

*Determines* that permitting weapons, including handguns, on university campuses, is an unnecessary distraction that poses a credible threat to our students, faculty, and staff;

*Determines* that the risk of violence against Tennessee Students compels us to stand in opposition to the bill,

*Determines* that faculty and staff members in higher education are employed to provide the highest quality collegiate experience, not campus security and defense unless hired to do so.

*Determines* that with approximately two thousand students residing within campus facilities, safety and peace for their on-campus homes is vital.

*Calls upon* the Tennessee General Assembly to remember the safety of its students as they cast their vote on the listed Senate Bills and all other related, future legislation,

*Calls upon* the Governor of Tennessee to veto the bill, should it pass through the Tennessee General Assembly.

Passed by the 195th Student Senate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.  
*March 8 2011 – Unanimous*

Approved and Attested:

Andrew R. Clark  
Student Body President

Brittany L. Justice  
Student Body Vice President & Senate Chair