

Northern Arizona University
Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Senate Resolution
Passed February 7, 2022

Motion Introduced by: Kate Ellis, Senate President, Northern Arizona University

Title of Motion: Resolution opposing Senate Bill 1123 and House Bill 2447 - disruption; educational institution; concealed weapon.

Whereas, the Faculty Senate at Northern Arizona University previously adopted a Senate Resolution opposing legislation permitting firearms or other weapons on University campuses in February of 2011 and reaffirmed in 2016;

Whereas, the Faculty Senate has continued support from representative members who met on January 4, 2022 where we reaffirm opposition to guns on campus;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10-24 and the CDC lists access to lethal means, including firearms, as a risk factor for suicide. Suicide rates have increased over time and 53% involved the use of firearms in 2020;

Whereas, the Jed Campus Foundation, the nation's leading organization dedicated to young adult mental health and suicide prevention, supports gun free campuses. The NAU Mental Health Task Force has achieved Jed Campus status by applying a comprehensive approach to mental health and suicide prevention that includes limiting access to lethal means (firearms, medication, etc) on campus as a strategy to reduce risk of death by suicide;

Whereas, the AZ Association of Police Chiefs, of which NAU's police chief is a member, has publicly opposed this legislation;

Whereas, the Arizona Board of Regents voted unanimously in 2016 to oppose House Bill 2072 and House Bill 2338 allowing certain permit holders to carry on campus;

Whereas, access and proximity to weapons in an educational environment is not consistent with the goals of learning, open communication and intellectual exchange in the university community;

Therefore, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, representing over 1500 faculty members and academic professionals at Northern Arizona University, announces its unqualified opposition to SB1123 and HB 2247, and any legislation which would increase guns on campus. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee finds the current proposed legislation to be a clear danger to the safety, security, and sense of well-being of students, staff, and faculty.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Kate Ellis, Faculty Senate President and Chair of the Arizona Faculties Council

Ed Smaglik, Vice President

Karen Renner, Secretary

Bruce Fox, Treasurer

Alexandra Carpino, Parliamentarian

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Rebecca Rinsema, Chair, Council on Learning

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