

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

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Resolution: G.R. 18 (S) 7 - Amending Campus Carry Policy on the UT Austin Campus

WHEREAS (1): Texas state legislature passed a bill (S.B. 11) regarding concealed carry June 1, 2016, effective on university campuses August 1, 2016. S.B. 11 amends Texas Government Code §411.2031 to allow carrying of handguns by license holders on the campuses of certain institutions of higher education, including the University of Texas at Austin; and,

WHEREAS (2): The University of Texas at Austin passed its own code “Campus Carry Policies and Implementation Strategies” controlling campus carry on the UT Austin campus, within the scope of their ability to do so; and,

WHEREAS (3): Under UT Austin policies, private offices are considered spaces where the occupant can decide whether or not concealed carry is allowed. Specifically, Policy Statement No. 17: “The occupant of an office to which the occupant has been solely assigned and that is not generally open to the public should be 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.”;¹ and,

WHEREAS (4): UT Austin graduate students, especially teaching assistants and assistant instructors, rarely, if ever, are awarded single occupancy offices. UT Austin graduate students’ offices vary in size and occupancy; however, they are still private offices with lockable doors reserved for the work of individuals, only open to students at scheduled times; and,

WHEREAS (5): Texas A&M’s policy states that private offices “differ from classrooms in that students are not required to come to faculty in order to participate in a class, and

¹ UT Austin Campus Carry Policies and Implementation Strategies, no 17.
<https://utexas.app.box.com/v/campus-carry-report>

alternate means of meetings are used widely already.”² The same is true of faculty and graduate student offices at UT Austin; and,

WHEREAS (6): The University of Houston prohibits concealed carry in “spaces used for discussions of grievance and/or disciplinary hearings or meetings. (These exclusions may be permanent or temporary based on usage of the spaces.)”³ This is due, in part, to “the belief that introducing handguns into environments where matters of performance or discipline are discussed may heighten the risk of gun violence”⁴; and,

WHEREAS (7): TA and AI offices have a continuous influx of people with questions regarding class materials and homework, including potential disciplinary meetings when students are caught cheating or plagiarizing materials; and,

WHEREAS (8): The aforementioned UT Policy Statement No. 17 “is designed to preserve the uniqueness of the campus environment and to address specific safety considerations expressed by faculty members, staffers and students. Faculty, staff and student offices have traditionally been places where members of the university community can have open dialogue on academic, research, performance or disciplinary matters”⁵; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (1): The Graduate Student Assembly of the University of Texas at Austin supports the revision of Policy Statement No. 17 to include low-occupancy shared graduate student offices to prohibit concealed carry in that office upon the agreement of the shared users of the office; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2): The Graduate Student Assembly of the University of Texas at Austin supports the revision of Policy Statement No. 17 to include offices where disciplinary measures are discussed; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3): That copies of this bill be sent to the Office of the Chancellor, the Office of the President, the Office of Executive Vice President and Provost, and the Office of the Dean of Graduate School.

PASSED by the GSA General Assembly, March 21, 2018

Signature of the GSA President _____



² https://www.tamu.edu/statements/Campus_Carry_Final_Report_3-10-16.pdf

³ University of Houston Manual of Administrative Policies and Procedures, Section Public Safety, Area General Police Services. Number 07.01.05.

⁴ <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/campus-carry-report>

⁵ Ibid, no 17