

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

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**Resolution:** G.R. 17 (S) 5 - General Resolution in Support of the Addition of Campus Spaces for Concealed Carry Exclusion Office Hours

**WHEREAS (1):** The mission of The University of Texas at Austin is to “achieve excellence in the interrelated areas of ... graduate education, research, and public service.”<sup>1</sup> The university consistently advocates for the advancement of comprehensive educational opportunities at the master’s, doctoral and post-doctoral levels; and,

**WHEREAS (2):** The core purpose of The University of Texas at Austin is to transform lives through the betterment of society. Education is integral for this purpose, and classes facilitate engaged discussion among graduate and post-doctoral teaching assistants and their students; and,

**WHEREAS (3):** Graduate and doctoral students comprise the majority of teaching assistants on campus, and they are integral to the education process for not only faculty but also students and the campus community; and,

**WHEREAS (4):** As per the University Policy Office, teaching assistants, as part of their stated duties, might be asked to hold office hours to help facilitate private discussions with students on matters related to their educational and personal development; and,

**WHEREAS (5):** Graduate and doctoral teaching assistants request for the use of concealed carry exclusion office spaces to conduct weekly office hours on behalf of their students; and,

**WHEREAS (6):** Currently, UT administered an implementation strategy for Concealed Carry on September 1, 2016, which stated that “the concealed carry of handguns is prohibited in patient-care areas, including those, in which professional mental health services are provided”;<sup>2</sup> and,

**WHEREAS (7):** Zones in the Student Services Building qualify as patient-care areas and, moreover, concealed carry exclusion spaces; and,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.utexas.edu/about/mission-and-values>

<sup>2</sup><https://utexas.app.box.com/v/campus-carry-report>

**WHEREAS (8):** Policy Statement No. 24 states that concealed carry exclusion zones should be made available to faculty and staff (who do not have preassigned offices) on a scheduled basis;<sup>3</sup> and,

**WHEREAS (9):** These spaces cannot currently be reserved consistently for semester-long appointments by either faculty or students for the facilitation of office hours, an important duty of the teaching assistant job; now,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED (1):** That the Graduate Student Assembly supports the continued use of these exclusion spaces at the Student Services Building for teaching assistant office hours; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (2):** That the Graduate Student Assembly requests that the Student Services Building allows graduate and post-doctoral students to consistently reserve this space for conducting their office hours, an integral part of the educational development process for them and their students; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED (3):** That this resolution be sent to Mr. Gregory Fenves, *President of The University of Texas at Austin*, Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, *Dean of Students*, Dr. Maurie McInnis, *Vice President and Provost*, and Director Jamie Shutter, *Director of University Health Services*.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu/policies>