

11-2-2011

On-Campus Gun Range

Sandra Peacock
Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-senate-index>

 Part of the [Higher Education Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Peacock, Sandra, "On-Campus Gun Range" (2011). *Faculty Senate Index*. 144.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/faculty-senate-index/144>

This request for information is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Index by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

On-Campus Gun Range

Submitted by Sandra Peacock

11/2/2011

Question:

The administration and faculty agree that the safety of our university community is paramount. The construction of a shooting range and the resulting increase in the number of weapons brought onto our campus affects us all.

The faculty listed below support this RFI.

Sandra Peacock
Michael Moore
Mary Hadley
Joan Broome
Trent Maurer
Robert Yarbrough
Michelle Haberland
Kathleen Comerford
Mark Welford
Richard Flynn
Robert Costomiris
Jon Bryant
Laura Shelton
Anastatia Sims

Rationale:

1) Under which of the three exceptions to the current policy prohibiting guns on campus will members of the public be permitted to use personal firearms at the new facility?

2) Which university personnel will be appointed the "duly authorized official of the school" responsible for authorizing persons to carry firearms on campus? Under what criteria would such authorization be determined?

3) What specific measures will be taken to ensure that the transit of personal firearms to the facility by public users will not endanger students, faculty, or staff? Will there be provisions to prevent individuals from walking or riding a bicycle through campus to the facility? What specific measures will the university employ to prevent any person from "wander[ing] around campus for a couple of hours with his/her gun?" (Theresa Thompson, Written Response to "Gun Range" Request for Discussion, Faculty Senate, 24 October 2011)

4) Were any other university properties considered as a location for the facility? If not, why not?

5) Why was there no communication with the Faculty Senate in the time between the publication of The Augusta Chronicle article in August and the faculty-initiated Request for Discussion at the October meeting of the Faculty Senate?

6) If this is indeed NOT yet a done deal, what is the timetable for the project going forward? When will it become a done deal?

7) Please explain the process through which the proposal for the on-campus gun range was developed.

8) Did the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approach the university or vice versa?

9) What evidence is there that the DNR is going to build this facility next to university even if the university declines the grant they are offering?

10) Have any verbal commitments/assurances been made to any state agency (Board of Regents or DNR) or legislators that Georgia Southern University will build this facility?

11) How will the operating expenses for the facility be covered? If the facility is supposed to be "self-supporting," please identify the ongoing revenue sources. What will happen if the facility does not generate enough income to cover operating expenses?

12) When will those who pay RAC membership fees be consulted on the proposed gun range, given that those membership fees will be going to support the facility?

Response:

11/4/2011: The SEC has requested that Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management respond.

11/11/2011

Question: Under which of the three exceptions to the current policy prohibiting guns on campus will members of the public be permitted to use personal firearms at the new facility?

Answer: All applicable exceptions to Georgia Law will be utilized at the facility depending on the nature of an individual's participation. Please see attachment of Georgia law excerpt and the bolded exceptions that will be most commonly applied.

Question: Which university personnel will be appointed the "duly authorized official of the school" responsible for authorizing persons to carry firearms on campus? Under what criteria would such authorization be determined?

Answer: Our Chief of Public Safety will serve as "the duly authorized" official of the school. Please see attachment of Georgia law excerpt and the bolded exceptions that will be most commonly applied.

Question: What specific measures will be taken to ensure that the transit of personal firearms to the facility by public users will not endanger students, faculty, or staff? Will there be provisions to prevent individuals from walking or riding a bicycle through campus to the facility? What specific measures will the university employ to prevent any person from "wander[ing] around campus for a couple of hours with his/her gun?" (Theresa Thompson,

Written Response to "Gun Range" Request for Discussion, Faculty Senate, 24 October 2011)

Answer: A person utilizing their personal firearm at the facility will register the weapon, undergo a background check, attend an orientation session and be issued a pass to carry the registered weapon on the premises of the facility only. It is illegal under Georgia Law, and remains illegal, to possess a firearm on a person at any other location on campus. All current Public Safety procedures and policies for campus will remain intact. (per Chief Mike Russell)

Question: Were any other university properties considered as a location for the facility? If not, why not?

Answer: There is currently no university owned space large enough to handle the facility and its associated outdoor archery ranges. This location also provides the least intrusion upon campus. As we are utilizing this project as additional recreational offerings, it is located across the street from our main recreational facility.

Question: Why was there no communication with the Faculty Senate in the time between the publication of The Augusta Chronicle article in August and the faculty-initiated Request for Discussion at the October meeting of the Faculty Senate?

Answer: The exploration of this opportunity is for the expansion of recreational activities. Discussions with Presidents Cabinet, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and Student Government Association all took place to explore the feasibility. Public Safety and Legal Affairs on campus and at the BOR were also consulted as part of the feasibility research. All of the entities above had to provide numerous answers and approvals to proceed before we could officially bring the proposal forward.

Question: If this is indeed NOT yet a done deal, what is the timetable for the project going forward? When will it become a done deal?

Answer: An agreement has not been signed. Once a decision is made to enter into an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources the project should take 18-24 months to further plan, design, construct and open.

Question: Please explain the process through which the proposal for the on-campus gun range was developed.

Answer: The University (The President, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, and Executive Director of Campus Recreation and Intramurals) were presented with project and related grant at a meeting requested by the DNR Commissioner and DNR Director of the Wildlife Resources Division.

From there the DNR and the University explored the potential of the project, the viability, and the feasibility of the project. Discussions with Public Safety and Legal Affairs took place to explore any initial concerns. In order, to be sure the project would be supported at the highest level the project was presented for approval to the Board of Regents at their August meeting.

Once the project was approved by the Board of Regents additional campus procedures and processes were pursued (i.e. Office of Grants and Sponsored Research). In addition, preliminary discussions with potential donors were conducted to collect

information for development efforts for the facility for operating budgets, equipment, and scholarships for archery. The development climate was found to be very favorable for archery such as the \$500,000 pledged by the Easton Foundation.

Question: Did the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approach the university or vice versa?

Answer: Yes, The DNR approached the University. (See Question & Answer Above)

Question: What evidence is there that the DNR is going to build this facility next to university even if the university declines the grant they are offering?

Answer: In a recent conversation with the DNR, they expressed their interest in having a facility in Southeast Georgia and the continued desire to partner with Georgia Southern whether the building was constructed by the DNR or the University.

Question: Have any verbal commitments/assurances been made to any state agency (Board of Regents or DNR) or legislators that Georgia Southern University will build this facility?

Answer: No, the assurance will come when the inter-governmental agreement is signed. Until then the University is pursuing with interest in this opportunity to expand recreational offerings for students and due diligence is being carried out.

Question: How will the operating expenses for the facility be covered? If the facility is supposed to be "self-supporting," please identify the ongoing revenue sources. What will happen if the facility does not generate enough income to cover operating expenses?

Answer: The revenue will come from sales and service, as well as, student recreation fees. In addition, fund raising efforts will be taken to establish an operations endowment to support the facility. If the center cannot support itself, then hours of operation will be reduced and usage will be adjusted to maximize revenue.

Question: When will those who pay RAC membership fees be consulted on the proposed gun range, given that those membership fees will be going to support the facility?

Answer: RAC membership fees of faculty, staff, dependents and spouses are voluntary.

Carrying weapons within school safety zones, at school functions, or on school property:

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "School safety zone" means in or on any real property owned by or leased to any public or private elementary school, secondary school, or school board and used for elementary or secondary education and in or on the campus of any public or private technical school, vocational school, college, university, or institution of postsecondary education.

(2) "Weapon" means and includes any pistol, revolver, or any weapon designed or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 16-11-106. This paragraph excludes any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any person to carry to or to possess or have under such person's control while within a school safety zone or at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school any weapon or explosive compound, other than fireworks the possession of which is regulated by Chapter 10 of Title 25.

(c) The provisions of this Code section shall not apply to:

(1) Baseball bats, hockey sticks, or other sports equipment possessed by competitors for legitimate athletic purposes;

(2) Participants in organized sport shooting events or firearm training courses;

(3) Persons participating in military training programs conducted by or on behalf of the armed forces of the United States or the Georgia Department of Defense;

(4) Persons participating in law enforcement training conducted by a police academy certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council or by a law enforcement agency of the state or the United States or any political subdivision thereof;

(5) The following persons, when acting in the performance of their official duties or when en route to or from their official duties:

(A) A peace officer as defined by Code Section 35-8-2;

(B) A law enforcement officer of the United States government;

(C) A prosecuting attorney of this state or of the United States;

(D) An employee of the Georgia Department of Corrections or a correctional facility operated by a political subdivision of this state or the United States who is authorized by the head of such correctional agency or facility to carry a firearm;

(E) A person employed as a campus police officer or school security officer who is authorized to carry a weapon in accordance with Chapter 8 of Title 20; and

(F) Medical examiners, coroners, and their investigators who are employed by the state or any political subdivision thereof;

(6) A person who has been authorized in writing by a duly authorized official of the school to have in such person's possession or use as part of any activity being conducted at a school building, school property, or school function a weapon which would otherwise be prohibited by this Code section. Such authorization shall specify the weapon or weapons which have been authorized and the time period during which the authorization is valid;

(7) A person who is licensed in accordance with Code Section 16-11-129 or issued a permit pursuant to Code Section 43-38-10, when such person carries or picks up a student at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school or a person who is licensed in accordance with Code Section 16-11-129 or issued a permit pursuant to Code Section 43-38-10 when he or she has any weapon legally kept within a vehicle when such vehicle is parked at such school property or is in transit through a designated school zone;

(8) A weapon possessed by a license holder which is under the possessor's control in a motor vehicle or which is in a locked compartment of a motor vehicle or one which is in a locked container in or a locked firearms rack which is on a motor vehicle which is being used by an adult over 21 years of age to bring to or pick up a student at a school building, school function, or school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school, or when such vehicle is used to transport someone to an activity being conducted on school property which has been authorized by a duly authorized official of the school; provided, however, that this exception shall not apply to a student attending such school;

(9) Persons employed in fulfilling defense contracts with the government of the United States or agencies thereof when possession of the weapon is necessary for manufacture, transport, installation, and testing under the requirements of such contract;

(10) Those employees of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles when specifically designated and authorized in writing by the members of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to carry a weapon;

(11) The Attorney General and those members of his or her staff whom he or she specifically authorizes in writing to carry a weapon;

(12) Probation supervisors employed by and under the authority of the Department of Corrections pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 8 of Title 42, known as the "State-wide Probation Act," when specifically designated and authorized in writing by the director of the Division of Probation;

(13) Public safety directors of municipal corporations;

(14) State and federal trial and appellate judges;

(15) United States attorneys and assistant United States attorneys;

(16) Clerks of the superior courts;

(17) Teachers and other school personnel who are otherwise authorized to possess or carry weapons, provided that any such weapon is in a locked compartment of a motor vehicle or one which is in a locked container in or a locked firearms rack which is on a motor vehicle; or

(18) Constables of any county of this state.

