

“A Resolution Commending President Courtway’s Stated Position Regarding Concealed Weapons on College and University Campuses as it Applies to UCA”

Whereas, the Faculty Senate at the University of Central Arkansas recognizes the recent law passed by the Legislature regarding the carrying of concealed weapons on college and university campuses, with the option of each college or university body to opt out of this law each year;

Whereas the Faculty Senate acknowledges President Courtway’s public statement that he intends to advise the Board of Trustees to opt out of the law and continue to prohibit concealed weapons at UCA;

Whereas the Faculty Senate respects and accepts the position of campus law enforcement officials, including Police Chief Larry James, that changes to state law regarding concealed weapons on college and university campuses are likely to make students, staff and faculty less rather than more safe from gun violence;

Whereas the Police Chief articulated the view that concealed weapons on campus would violate the premise of a university campus as a sanctuary and free space to value and promote free speech and spirited discussion, and the presence of firearms would have a chilling effect on such activities;

And whereas the Faculty Senate shares these views and these concerns;

Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved, that the UCA Faculty Senate commends President Courtway’s stated position and recommends that the Board of Trustees elect to opt out of the current law regarding concealed weapons on college and university campuses.