

## **The Importance of Campus Safety**

**Najla Alshammari**

Department of Educational Technology  
University of Northern Colorado

Have you ever imagined faculty member and students with guns at the university? I believe that teachers are in school to teach and keep the environment safe. We should keep guns off campus because it will violate the sanctity of campus and decrease the safety too. Instead of allowing guns on campus I suggest that we increase the number of surveillance cameras and number of policemen.

Allowing weapons on campus will increase problems, turning it into an unsafe place and make the situation more badly. In fact, Lindsey Reiser from ABC News quoted Media Law Professor Joseph Russomanno saying: "It is like to throw gasoline on the fire." ("Arizona May Allow Faculty to Carry Guns on Campus," 2010) If professors have the right to carry guns on campus, students also will want to have the right to carry guns. Even worse, with the large number of guns on campus, professors and students will be living and working under the fear that their colleagues may pull a gun and start shooting them. Allowing guns will violate the sanctity of the university, as the students cannot feel secure and at peace anymore. Also, they will be concerned with who may pull his/her gun first.

The bill will allow everyone to carry guns even if they are untrained. Actually, professors will be engaged in training students how to use a gun in class rather than teaching. For example, if a students and teacher had weapons in the same room and started shooting, like in a movie set in the Wild West, they might hurt innocent people. This is contrasting to the university police who are well-trained to act in violent situation. There is no need to allow guns on campus, as this would not really make the campuses safer.

The university police cannot have control on campus with such a large number of guns. Jack Catrel, police chief of East Tennessee state university represents that "we spend a lot of time training our officers in dealing with, God forbid, an active shooter situation. Right now, we focus on the person with guns." ("Campus Police Continue Opposition to Guns at School," 2011) On other words, if they allow students and professors to carry guns, it will be difficult for the police to distinguish between the person who opened fire and innocent people. Even worse, in case of a violent crime on campus, the role of the university police will be hindered and so delay potentially life-saving service.

Some students are reckless and cannot control themselves when they get angry. For instance, if two people fight with each other and start shooting, the other students when they hear the shoot sounds may shoot randomly and end up with a pool of blood. Sometimes a student might have a problem with a teacher and feel frustrated because he/she is failing; they may shoot the teacher, as happened in October 2002 when a nursing student at the University of Arizona in Tucson who was failing his classes decided to shoot, and as a result killed three professors before killing himself. (Larson) Another mass shooting incident happened in 2007 at Virginia Tech University. Seung-Hui Cho, a student who was suffering from mental illness, killed 32 people, including 27 students, 5 teachers and himself. ("Virginia Tech Shootings Fast Facts," 2014)

Some people argue that these incidents could be have ended differently if professors or students had the right to carry guns on campus. Their main point that allows carrying guns on campus gives them a chance to protect themselves in violent situation. In fact, there is no need to carry weapons on campus because of the presence of the university police who help keep the peace. Also, permitting guns on campus will increase problems and make the situation worse.

One significant solution is increasing the number of cameras. These cameras can help by observing the students behavior when they are on campus. For example, Jared Loughner, the suspect in Gabrielle Gifford's incident, was dismissed from Pima Community because they observed in him some erratic behavior that hinted he had a mental illness. (Cloud, 2011) Pima refused Jared to return to school until he submitted to mental health evaluation.

This meant that with the surveillance cameras Pima College was able to confirm and gather evidence of this erratic behavior, which helped to dismiss him from school. If a student reacts seem abnormal because he is suffering from a mental problem, after watching, we can ask help for him.

Another vital solution is increasing the number of university police on campus. It is university police job to keep the safety for both students and staff members. Policemen are everywhere working with opening eye for the sake of students and faculty. Policemen are well- trained to shoot in violent situation and know when the right time is. Instead of allowing students and faculty to carry guns, we should teach them the specific procedure to follow when the shooter is on campus. This will help policemen to react effectively.

After Gabrielle Giffords's incident, which happened in a local Safeway store, we have to reject the bill forever.(KURTZ, 2011) People can bring their guns in public places and make stupid things. The governor Jan Brewer rejected the bill that would allow students and professors to carry guns on campus claiming that the bill is "poorly written."(Frank, 2011).

Before the advocates who swore to bring back the bill that would allow students and faculty to carry guns on campus, they should have to consider the issue from many sides before bring back the bill again. The bill if passed, would allow everyone to carry guns even if they are untrained. Another significant reason is carrying weapons on campus will increase problems, turning it into an unsafe place and make the situation more complicated. The university police cannot have control on campus with such a large number of guns. Especially in the case of violent crimes on campus, the role of the police to secure the area will be hindered and so delay potentially life-saving services. This will increase the magnitude massacre and make it difficult for the policemen to distinguish the bad guy who started the fire. Finally, some students are reckless and cannot control themselves when they get angry. For instance, if two people fight with each other and start shooting, when other students hear the shooting sounds, they may shoot randomly and end up in a pool of blood. Also sometimes a student might have a problem with a teacher and feel frustrated because he/she is failing; they may shoot the teacher. Doubtfully having a gun is the best way to protect us from danger. Therefore I'm suggesting a different and better alternative method to solve the problem instead of allowing guns such as increasing the number of policemen and number of surveillance cameras in campuses.

## **References**

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