MEMO

August 19, 2015

To: TTU community

From: M. Duane Nellis, President
Lawrence Schovanec, Provost and Senior Vice President

Re: Texas Senate Bill 11: Campus Carry

Prior to changes made in the 84th Texas Legislature (2015), individuals, with certain exceptions, such as law enforcement personnel, were prohibited from carrying handguns inside any Texas Tech University System (TTUS) buildings, even if the individual held a concealed handgun license (CHL). Senate Bill 11 (S.B. 11), the so called “Campus Carry” bill, mandates that, pursuant to a prescribed process, institutions of higher education alter their rules governing handgun possession. After completion of the process required under S.B. 11, individuals holding a concealed handgun license will be able to carry a concealed handgun on TTU campuses and into authorized TTU buildings. “Open Carry” will still be prohibited.

Clearly, there is much analysis and dialogue ahead for the Texas Tech University System and Texas Tech University. In order to help facilitate that process, Chancellor Robert Duncan has established a working group with representatives from the Texas Tech University System and each of the component universities with the goal of establishing some general guidelines for institutional rules and processes, with the further goal of having those guidelines available to the universities by October 1, 2015. President Nellis has appointed Provost Schovanec to represent Texas Tech on this System-level working group.

In addition, President Nellis is appointing a university-wide committee to help develop specific policies for TTU. Provost Schovanec will chair this committee, with membership to be finalized by August 24, 2015. By August 1, 2016 individual campus rules must be in place, having been reviewed by the Board of Regents, and ready to be reported to the Legislature by September 1, 2016. With this goal in mind, education and information programs should be fully planned and ready for implementation by the May, 2016, meeting of the Board of Regents.
As a part of the legislative process, which led to the eventual passage of the “Campus Carry” legislation, some unique provisions were provided to allow universities to have some discretion in tailoring handgun rules for their respective campuses. S.B. 11 describes limitations on universities’ discretion. The key points are:

1. Subject to rules adopted by the university, individuals holding a valid Texas handgun license will be allowed to carry their handgun, concealed on their person on the campus.
2. The President of each university shall establish “reasonable rules” regarding the carrying of handguns on the campus.
3. The rules so established may not “…generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting license holders [from carrying on the campus].”
4. The rules are to be established after consultation with students, staff and faculty.
5. The consultations should take into account the student population, specific safety considerations for that campus, and the “uniqueness of the campus environment.”
6. At any campus location that is “off-limits” for concealed carry, notice must be so identified with appropriate signage.

The development of policies will be carried out with regular communication and consultation with faculty, staff, and students. We look forward to your input and cooperation during this process.