**Faculty Senate Minutes – Special meeting to oppose SB 246, relating to weapon conceal & carry on campus**

Friday, March 5, 2021, 3:10 p.m., online via Zoom

**Senate Roster for 2020-2022:**

Kurtis Adams (MUSC), Robert Anthony (SCCJ), James Broomall (HIST), Larry Daily (PSYC), Rhonda Donaldson (LIB), Karen Green (SOWK), Jeff Groff (DEPS), Michael Groves (NURS), Max Guirguis (PSCI), Osman Guzide (CME), Heidi Hanrahan (ENGL/LANG), Desmond Lawless (RSES), Mengyang Li (CHEM), Belinda Mitchell (EDUC), David Modler (ART), George Ray (BADM), Kathleen Reid (ECON), John Steffen (BIOL), Cindy Vance (ACCT), Kevin Williams (COMM), Max Guirguis (ACF).

**Officers:** Heidi Hanrahan (President), John Steffen (Secretary), Jeff Groff (Parliamentarian)

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Kurtis Adams MUSC x

Robert Anthony SOCI/GEOG Present

James Broomall HIST Present

Larry Daily PSYC Present

Rhonda Donaldson LIB Present

Karen Green SOWK Present

Jeff Groff DEPS Present

Michael Groves NURS x

Max Guirguis PSCI Present

Osman Guzide CME Present

Heidi Hanrahan ENGL/LANG Present

Desmond Lawless RSES Present

Mengyang Li CHEM x

Belinda Mitchell EDUC Present

David Modler ART x

Tim Nixon CORE x

George Ray BADM Present

Kathleen Reid ECON Present

John Steffen BIOL Present

Cindy Vance ACCT x

Kevin Williams COMM Present

Guests: no guests

Meeting called to order in the presence of quorum at 3:10 p.m.

1. Senate held short discussion about bill SB 246, relating to Conceal & carry laws on university campuses. Senate members review and revise the Shepherd University resolution to include statements about classrooms, student housing, counter-arguments. LD motion to approve, motion seconded by KW. LD built anonymous survey with Survey Monkey: 14 members favor opposition, 2 members do not favor opposition. Resolution passes by majority. See below for full resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Resolution to Oppose SB 246, Relating to Concealed Carry on Campus

**Whereas**, this bill will override the ability of colleges and universities to regulate the carrying of deadly weapons on their campuses;

**Whereas**, firearms in the classroom are counterproductive to an open, effective learning environment;

**Whereas**, firearms on campus create an inherently dangerous environment and could negatively impact recruitment of new students to Shepherd and retention of current students as well as hiring and retention of staff and administrators;

**Whereas**, firearms in the classroom could negatively impact the faculty’s ability to encourage open, honest communication and could negatively affect faculty hiring and retention;

**Whereas,** the presence of guns in student housing and other campus buildings presents a serious risk of injury or death to students, staff, and the campus community;

**Whereas,** depression is the most common mental health issue for which college students seek counseling and depression significantly increases the risk of suicide, and having a firearm present increases the risk of suicide by gunshot;

**Whereas,**the student body is under an extra burden due to the ongoing pandemic as evidenced by dramatically increased reported rates of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues in the last year;

**Whereas**, the cost of securing buildings and public events would represent an undue financial burden on Shepherd University;

**Be it resolved**, that the Faculty Senate of Shepherd University urges defeat of SB 246.

We so resolve.

Approved by the Faculty Senate on March 5, 2021.