

November 1, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

As I wrote in [April](#) of this year, helping to ensure the safety of our students, employees and visitors remains the college's highest priority. Working with the [KOPS advisory committee](#), college administration has been actively preparing for the change that will allow concealed carry of handguns in our facilities beginning July 1, 2017. The KOPS advisory committee sponsored a second open forum on October 19, 2016. At the forum, we presented the framework and rationale for an updated weapons policy to address concealed carry. We are at the point of publishing the [draft weapons policy](#) and want to hear your feedback. Please use the "Submit Feedback" button at the top of this page.

I want to emphasize that this policy statement is a draft. The Board of Trustees is expected to take final action to adopt an updated policy sometime in spring 2017. It's possible that further developments in the legislature would alter the draft policy language, so we want to give the campus community and the Board ample time for consideration before the draft policy is finalized. A final updated policy will be in place prior to July 1, 2017.

We plan to hold various educational sessions on the updated policy as it is rolled out. Also, we will prepare Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) based on questions we receive. The FAQs will provide more detailed responses than the broader policy statement.

In addition to the draft policy updates, we remain focused on security and preparedness initiatives. Our professional, responsive police force, the ALICE training and other exercises in which so many have participated, and the communications systems in place to notify the campus of incidents, all contribute to creating a safe and welcoming campus for students, employees and visitors.

Thank you to members of the KOPS advisory committee and to the campus community for your diligence as we prepare for this change.

Sincerely,

— *Barbara Larson, Executive Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services*