

From: Orion [mailto:olawlor@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 6:24 PM

To: Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson

Cc: abultito@alaska.edu; debu.misra@alaska.edu

Subject: Re: Bill on Guns on UA Campus

As a United Academics faculty member at UAF, Abel and Debu do not speak for me on this issue. The "no weapons" stickers currently on university buildings do not provide us any actual protection against people intent on doing us harm.

Dean of Students Dan Foley in 2012 said "Short of having some sort of airport-like TSA set up for every single building on campus, there's no real way to ensure that someone is not carrying something in a backpack, concealed on them."

<http://fm.kuac.org/post/despite-policy-weapons-still-appear-university-campus>

In 2012 Sean McGee said "As the [UAF] police chief and as a resident here in the state of Alaska, I think there's probably a greater number of firearms on campus than any of us really know about. It's just that these people aren't using their firearms to commit criminal acts."

One summer a few years ago I met one of my recently-graduated students on campus, and in talking with him the subject came up that he was carrying a concealed pistol. This was not a violation of university policy, because he had become an FBI special agent just a few months earlier.

Current UAF students that I know who carry guns while off-campus are among the most careful and conscientious persons I have had the pleasure to meet. They are the sort that keeps a fire extinguisher, jumper cables, and a tow strap in their car--in case they're needed--and they carry a gun for the same reason. I would feel safer knowing they were carrying in my classroom.

In 2010 I watched a tenured faculty member running for their life from a moose on campus, and without ready access to an effective weapon, I was unable to help protect them.

Disclaimer: I teach in computer science, whose classrooms are blissfully free of passionate political disputes (as long as you don't bring up Windows vs UNIX, or C++ vs Python!), my building is within sight of the UAF police station, and I have never felt physically intimidated by anyone during my decade of teaching at UAF. My expectation is that if firearms were allowed on the campus, despite dire predictions no tragedies would occur, and some might even be prevented.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <debu.misra@alaska.edu>

Date: Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 2:34 PM

Subject: Bill on Guns on UA Campus

To: Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov,

Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov,

Senator.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov,

Representative.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov,

Representative.Pete.Higgins@akleg.gov,

Representative.Doug.Isaacson@akleg.gov,
Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov,
Representative.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov,
Representative.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov

Cc: debu.misra@alaska.edu

To: Interior Legislative
Delegation of Alaska Legislature

Bcc:

Members of United Academics, UAF campus Dear Members of the Interior Delegation,I am writing to you because I represent 544 (of 965) United Academics (UNAC) faculty members on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. You have already received a note from our UNAC President, Professor Abel Bult-Ito, in this context and the communication has appeared in Fairbanks Daily Miner on March 15, 2014 (http://www.newsminer.com/opinion/community_perspectives/allowing-guns-on-campus-would-hurt-students-faculty-and-ua/article_a9f297a0-ac17-11e3-9968-0017a43b2370.html).

There have been several other critical opinion expressed in this context recently. I am providing links to a few for your perusal –March 10, 2014 – Students’ Opinion on this issue - http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/students-testify-against-allowing-guns-on-university-of-alaska-campuses/article_363f635a-a8b2-11e3-919f-001a4bcf6878.html

March 10,
2014 – Professor Terrence Cole - http://www.newsminer.com/opinion/community_perspectives/protect-ua-students-first-amendment-rights-keep-guns-out-of/article_a8d869f4-a829-11e3-b5c6-0017a43b2370.html

March 11,
2014 – Lars W. Ehrlander - http://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/speak-out-on-gun-bill/article_9153c17c-ada4-11e3-bb8a-0017a43b2370.html

March 13,
2014 – Professor Timothy Wilson - http://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/don-t-allow-guns-on-ua-campuses/article_75201532-ada4-11e3-8f50-0017a43b2370.html

SB 176 and HB 335 that would devoid the power of the UA Board of Regents to ensure a secured educational environment for all students, staff and faculty members of the university and allow “guns on campus” has been quite alarming and disconcerting to all faculty, staff and students on UAF campus that I have met and spoken with over the past week or so. The introduction of the bills and the lack of adequate time for scrutiny or discussion has captured the attention of the faculty of UAF and has become a very controversial issue. I do not want to repeat what President Bult-Ito has already put forth in his communication to you. However, I would like to put forth, very strongly, that the Board of Regents of UA, who are the authorities to provide a secured and free environment for its employees and students, need not be stripped off of such authority through the language of SB 176 and HB 335. If passed, this legislation will have greatly increased a potential threat to the learning and working environment of the university.

Hence, as the elected representative of UNAC on UAF campus, I stand in full support of the opposition to the two bills that was communicated by UNAC President Bult-Ito. We hope that you will vote and campaign against the bills.

Our campus represents a place of learning. Having guns on campus may satisfy a few second amendment advocates. However, for the vast number of the University faculty, students and staff, the very idea of the legislation has put a sobering chill on the academic community.

Thank you very much for your immediate attention to this communication during a busy schedule. Sincerely yours,

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LEADERSHIP

is not about CONTROLLING people.

LEADERSHIP is rather about CONTROLLING principles & ADHERING to policies.*****

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