S. B. 11, or the “Campus Carry” Act, permits license holders to carry their handguns “on campuses and other locations associated with institutions of higher education.” For all public institutions, this law will go into effect August 1st, 2016. Private institutions, like Baylor, can opt out of adopting this law, or they can establish rules, regulations, and provisions, to prohibit concealed handgun license holders from bringing their weapon on campus. First, they must collect student, faculty, and staff opinions.

Today, we will look at three different options and weigh their potential effects and any dangers or trade-offs through a model of deliberative democracy.

### Option 1: Protect Ourselves & Others

In light of active shooter situations on college campuses, academic institutions should allow campus carry so that individuals can protect themselves and others.

#### What Could Be Done:
- Students are adults and those who qualify for the permit (age 21 and older) should be able to carry weapons on campus.
- License holders could provide possible protection in case of an attack or mass shooting.
- Require license holders to take part in extra campus-specific training and make them aware of all rules and regulations.
- Establish university policies that allow weapons within a range of limitations or restrictions.

#### Consequences & Trade-offs
- License holders don’t always respond how they think they will. Intense real-life situations may affect the training they’ve had.
- Any gun could accidentally go off. Additionally, weapons could be stolen or misused.
- Not allowing weapons means only those with ill-intent would have access to guns.
- Knowing that there are handguns on campus may cause insecurity, fear, and questioning in other students.

### Option 2: Focus on Educational Environment

Academic institutions should remain gun-free to fulfill their primary purpose in providing a safe learning environment for everyone.

#### What Could Be Done:
- Academic institutions are seen as different under the law and more restrictions to rights are legitimate to create a safe environment for learning.
- Allowing campus carry may have a chilling effect on the student-student, student-teacher relationship.
- Witnesses or responders would be able to identify an active shooter that meant harm more readily if others were not carrying weapons.
- Offer students training in nonviolent conflict resolution so they are equipped to deal with stressful situations in a healthy way.

#### Consequences & Trade-offs
- Students, staff, and faculty may be left defenseless in an active shooter situation if no one is equipped with a firearm.
- In case of an attack, classrooms and campus will not always be the safest places.
- A delayed response by armed security may open the potential for more harm while awaiting help.
- Students already accept restrictions and limits to some public laws by attending a private institution.

### Option 3: Invest in Campus Security

Academic institutions should adopt a holistic approach to campus security including violence prevention, mental health, and emergency preparation.

#### What Could Be Done:
- Focus on campus security efforts and violence prevention by providing information and offering trainings to all students, staff, and faculty.
- Continue the conversation -- keep mental health, safety, and security at the forefront of campus decisions and discussions.
- Develop mental health awareness & early identification programs.
- Ensure that classrooms and areas of campus are equipped for a campus lockdown or emergency situations.

#### Consequences & Trade-offs
- No one can completely prevent or predict an active shooter or emergency crisis situation.
- Continued education, additional training, and safety equipment would be a long-term approach.
- Mental health issues are often hard to diagnose and privacy issues may impede early identification of a potentially harmful situation.
- Money spent on safety and security efforts would be diverted away from university funds originally saved for other purposes.

### Values:

**PERSONAL LIBERTY, CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**INSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY, PERSONAL SAFETY & SECURITY, HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSES**

**OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES, ACCESS TO RESOURCES**