

REQUEST FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION

Committee: Planning & Budget
Title: Weapons and Firearms Policy
Date: March 29, 2006

Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees approve the proposed policy regarding weapons and firearms for Quinsigamond Community College:

Policy Statement: Except for authorized law enforcement purposes, no weapons or firearms of any kind are allowed on any Quinsigamond Community College campus.

Justification: This policy has been recommended by the Administrative Services Governance Committee, has been discussed at an All College Forum, reviewed and recommended by the All College Council, the President's Staff, and the Interim President.

The complete text of the document is attached.

<u>Weapons and Firearms Policy</u>	
1.0	<p><u>Purpose:</u> The safety and security of our students, faculty and staff are always a priority at QCC. The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, as an employer and an institution of higher education, is concerned with and interested in protecting the health welfare and safety of students, employees and visitors. The board recognizes that college buildings, facilities, grounds and other college property are best utilized in an educational process in the absence of threats to physical well-being and safety by individuals possessing weapons.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Revision History:</u> Although there have been established practices, no formal policy has been enacted. Not applicable.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Persons Affected:</u> 3.1 This policy applies to all persons, including faculty, staff, students, and visitors present on any campus area operated by Quinsigamond Community College.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Exclusions:</u> This policy does not apply to law enforcement officers duly authorized to carry such weapons. 3.2.a The President or his/her designee may grant exceptions as noted under Ch.269 S 10 of the Massachusetts General Laws.</p> <p><i>NOTE:</i> <i>The Director of Public Safety is authorized to grant any lawful exceptions.</i></p>
4.0	<p><u>Policy:</u> Except for authorized law enforcement purposes, no weapons of any kind are allowed on any Quinsigamond Community College campus.</p>

5.0	<p><u>Definitions:</u></p> <p>5.1 For the purposes of this policy, the term "weapons" includes, but is not limited to, firearms of any nature or description, including shotguns, rifles, pistols, and revolvers, paint ball guns, or BB/pellet guns; firearm replicas; ammunition; martial arts-type weapons; explosives (including fireworks); bows, cross bows, arrows; slingshots; switchblade knives, double-edged knives, hunting (fixed-blade)-style knives of any length, throwing knives, or folding (pocket-style) knives with a blade length of three inches or greater; swords; pointed metal darts; (unauthorized) pepper spray; or any other destructive device or instrument that may be used to do bodily injury or damage to property. In addition, items may be used as weapons, whether or not they fit the definition above, will be subject to seizure.</p> <p>5.2 The term "seizure" is defined as taking possession forcibly, if necessary, of property in the possession of another.</p> <p>5.3 The term "campus" includes, but is not limited to, college buildings, grounds, parking areas, vehicles, or any other facility owned, leased, or operated by the college.</p> <p>5.4 The term "carrying" includes, but is not limited to, possessing, transporting, storing, or having custody or control of firearms or other weapons within any part of your person or vehicle.</p> <p>5.5 The term "visitor" includes all persons not currently enrolled in classes at the college or those persons currently employed at the college on a full or part time basis.</p>
6.0	<p><u>Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>6.1 Each employee, student and visitor must comply with this policy.</p> <p>6.2 The Director of Human Resources and/or the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services and/or the Vice President of Administrative Services and/or the Director of Public Safety will ensure that the provisions of this policy are available to employees and students.</p> <p>6.3 All campus community members must enforce the provisions of this policy by means of reporting all infractions immediately to the Campus Police.</p>

	<p>6.4 Campus Police Officers, when practicable, and in compliance with department Standard Operating Procedures, may confiscate weapons and to refer such matters for legal and/or disciplinary action.</p> <p>6.5 The Director of Public Safety ensures that Campus Police Officers investigate matters of noncompliance, take appropriate legal and/or internal action, and report resultant findings to the Vice President of Administrative Services. As appropriate and in accordance with standard operating procedures, the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services and the Director of Human Resources will be notified.</p> <p>6.6 The authority to implement an interpret this policy rests with the President, who may delegate said authority in whole or in part to the Director of Public Safety) and/or the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, the Vice President of Administrative Services and/or the Director of Human Resources, as appropriate.</p> <p>6.7 The Director of Public Safety will provide and maintain a safe and secure weapons locker and related record keeping for the purposes of legitimate weapons storage.</p> <p>6.8 The Department of Public Safety, the Director of Public Safety or the Firearm Instructor, to properly inspect and certify stage prop, facsimile, disabled, and/or academic demonstration weapons as unable to discharge a projectile or otherwise disarm and unload such weapons upon petition by employees, students and invited lecturers and guests of the college.</p> <p><i>NOTE: In compliance with 6.8, a minimum of 5 days lead time is required for prior approval.</i></p> <p>6.9 The Director of Public Safety (when designated by the President), will respond to all lawful exceptions in writing. The response should be postmarked within five working days of the original request and mailed to the address of the originator of the request.</p>
7.0	<p><u>Procedures:</u></p> <p>7.1 The campus police, in accordance with standard operating procedures, will seize weapons discovered on campus property in violation of this policy, and the owner may forfeit ownership. Items that may be used as weapons on property owned or operated by the college, whether or not they fit the definition, may also be subject to seizure.</p>

	<p>NOTE: <i>Campus Police reserve the right to summon outside Law Enforcement support for any and all law enforcement specific action.</i></p> <p><i>7.1.1 Under those circumstances where a seizure of a weapon may be necessary, and when time permits, local law enforcement should be contacted to execute the seizure.</i></p> <p>7.2 Prop Weapons and Facsimiles Any item that appears to be a weapon, and that is utilized for any purpose on college property, must be reported to the campus police prior to being used in any activity. Examples include, but are not limited to, props used in plays, props or weapons used in class presentations, and any law enforcement and/or military exercises on campus.</p> <p>7.3 Storage When an Exemption is granted, weapons (unloaded, disabled and facsimile) used for demonstration and educational purposes must be stored at the Department of Public Safety in a secure weapons locker until time of class or demonstration and then removed from campus as soon as possible. All such weapons are to be carried in accordance with MGL Chap. 140 S. 131K -(trigger locks, unloaded and in a locked carrying case).</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p><u>Sanctions:</u></p> <p>8.1 Any student, employee or visitor violating this policy will be subject to college disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or dismissal, and/or criminal prosecution under the appropriate MGL Chapter and Section.</p>