

Awareness Low and Opinions Split on Weapons Policy
by Tabatha Blacksmith

April 30, 2013 - Over 60% of people polled on campus Monday were aware of the current weapons policy at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) and just over half said the current policy made them feel safe; roughly 30% weren't sure if they felt safe and 20% felt unsafe with the current policy. A smaller number of people - only 45% - were aware of the changes to the weapons policy being proposed by SPSCC's faculty senate. These findings are the result of an informal poll taken to gauge the level of awareness and support for changing the current weapons policy.

"The thing is, if someone wants to come on campus carrying a gun, there's really no way to stop it so...I'm not sure how much the policy change would actually really affect anyone who's determined to bring something on campus and hurt people," said Sarah, faculty.

When asked if people should be allowed to have weapons on campus, poll respondents were evenly split in favor of or against such possession in general, and 13% were undecided.

"I don't think it's safe to carry weapons on campus," said Antonio, student.

Veronica said: "For my own safety? Yes, I should be able. Should everybody? No, they should be tested. Some people are crazy. Although, I guess as long as there are security officers around, I'd feel safer."

Slightly more people were against concealed carry than favored it while only 32% of respondents supported open carry.

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“If everyone was walking around with hip-holstered pistols, I’d be slightly intimidated and have to go get one for myself,” a male student said, then laughed. “I am for open carry,” he added.

Currently, Washington’s Administrative Code states that the following behavior is a violation of SPSCC’s Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Carrying, exhibiting, displaying or drawing any firearm, dagger, sword, knife or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons.