

To: JCCC Faculty Senate
From: Nathan B. Jones, EdD
Subject: Summary of November 13, 2015 Town Hall Meeting
Date: November 19, 2015

Dear Senators,

On November 13, 2015 the Educational Affairs Committee, the Faculty Association, and the Faculty Senate hosted a two-hour Town Hall Meeting to discuss how to improve campus safety at JCCC. The purpose of the meeting was to generate ideas and to get a sense of what those participating think that we need to do to improve our safety on campus. This report summarizes the ideas from that Town Hall Meeting.

During the meeting, discussion points were written on a chalk board in front of the room. Participants were also handed open-ended written surveys to complete. Fifty-five people attended the meeting and 24 returned surveys. The results of this report summarize the ideas discussed in the room and shared on the written surveys. The written surveys included two questions:

1. What concerns do you have about classroom safety here at JCCC? In other words, what are some potential threats to safety that you are aware of?
2. What specific suggestions do you have to improve classroom or campus safety here at JCCC?

Generally speaking, those who attended the Town Hall Meeting were concerned about the prospect of individuals being able legally to carry firearms into campus buildings. This issue dominated the two-hour meeting and appears in nearly all of the surveys. Solutions offered ranged from electing new legislators to staging protests against the new firearms legislation. A few pointed out that some faculty may support the legal right to carry firearms into campus buildings. A few claimed that colleagues are becoming too concerned about the prospect of people legally carrying firearms on campus. Many agreed that the next step is to implement a credible, professional survey of all faculty to determine what colleagues across campus think about this issue. With this information, faculty at JCCC would be able to work through and unite behind a common policy and advocate in its behalf.

The ideas generated during the discussion and on the surveys are listed below for reference. The ideas are listed in random order, not in any priority.

Thank you for reading this summary report.

Sincerely,
nbj

Nathan B. Jones, EdD
President, JCCC Faculty Senate

Perceived Threats to Campus Safety

- More guns on campus may lead to more violence
- Armed students in classrooms may be intimidating
- Accidental shootings might happen
- Tense classroom atmosphere with armed students might result
- Suicide (not necessarily firearm related) is often an overlooked problem
- Extortion for better grades could result from armed students
- Chilling effect on classroom discussions, inquiry, could result from armed classrooms

Possible Reactions to Perceived Threats

- Stage rallies against guns on campus
- Explore more about liability issues for guns on campus
- Consider implications for college insurance for guns on campus
- Mobilize to elect new legislators to change gun laws
- Apply for a local exemption to the new gun law
- Establish gun-free zones on campus
- Accept legal presence of guns in campus buildings
- Train faculty, staff and students to carry guns responsibly in buildings
- Lobby for hazardous duty pay for faculty
- Stage campus walkouts until the gun laws change
- Conduct a cost-benefit economic analysis of the gun law in Kansas
- Encourage senior administrators and campus police to speak out against more guns on campus
- Work with other academic institutions to influence change in gun laws
- Establish uniform verbiage in syllabi about presence of guns in classrooms
- Require all persons to unload weapons before entering campus buildings
- Enable faculty to ban firearms from their classrooms
- Prepare for an outflow of faculty to other states
- Require classroom doors to be locked during instruction
- Install panic buttons behind professors' desks
- Provide each classroom with a fire extinguisher
- Provide better window treatments
- Provide ladders to exit through windows of upper-floor classrooms
- Provide more police patrols on campus
- Hire more campus police officers
- Prepare for fewer visitors to JCCC (revenue decline)
- Prepare for difficulty finding highly qualified faculty to teach in the state

- Inspect all persons entering and exiting campus buildings to negate need to bring firearms on campus
- Use media to communicate fears of an armed campus to the wider public
- Include instructions in classrooms about how to deal with violent situations
- Provide more handouts about how to deal with violence on campus
- Post emergency numbers around all phones on campus
- Redesign classrooms to make barricading doors easier
- Expand mandatory training to include campus safety
- Stop fear mongering on campus about guns in the classroom
- Provide firearms training as a part of professional development
- Improve speed of police response time to classroom incidents
- Provide survival supplies in classrooms for lengthy lockdowns
- Expand online instruction
- Install bullet-proof doors and windows in classrooms
- Promote early alert and early interventions for troubled students
- Profile troubled students and alert faculty to potential safety problems with students
- Host a regional conference on promoting campus safety in community colleges