University Weapons Policy

Purpose and Values
Students and other members of our community expect to be able to live, work and study in an environment free from weapons or the threat of violence. When we commit to living in community with one another, we necessarily agree to accept limitations on our own actions for the benefit of all, with the parallel expectation that we will not be injured, maligned, or otherwise negatively affected by the actions of others.

Scope and Application
This policy applies to all students (undergraduate, School of Theology and other graduate students), participants in the Summer Music Festival and the Sewanee Writers Conference, all employees of the University, whether full-time or part-time.

This policy excludes weapons used for instructional or University-sanctioned ceremonial purposes as well as weapons carried by an officer of the Sewanee Police Department. It also excludes weapons allowed for participation in University sponsored events such as the deer cull.

This policy excludes lawful weapons stored safely and securely and owned by employees or students living in residential leaseholds on University property.

Under Tennessee law, employees who have valid handgun carry permits are allowed to bring a weapon covered by that permit onto University parking lots during their scheduled work hours, provided that the permitted weapon is kept in a locked vehicle owned by the employee, is not handled by the employee and the weapon is not visible and is locked in the trunk, glove box, or gun safe. The weapon may never be removed from the employee’s vehicle while it is on University property. This exception does not apply to students; students are prohibited from having a handgun on University property at any time.

Long guns are excluded from this policy only to the extent a student is in full compliance with the Storage and Additional Regulations provisions below. Employees may not have long guns on University property with the exception of guns maintained safely and securely in an employee’s residential leasehold.

Definitions
Weapon means any device, instrument, or substance that is designed to, or reasonably could be expected to, inflict a wound, incapacitate, or cause serious bodily injury or death, including, but not limited to, firearms (loaded and unloaded, real and replica), ammunition, electronic control devices (such as tasers and stun guns), devices designed to discharge an object (such as bb guns, air guns, pellet guns, potato guns, and slingshots), explosives, dangerous chemicals (such as tear gas) or chemicals designed to incapacitate, martial arts weapons, bows and arrows, artificial knuckles, nightsticks, blackjacks, dirks, daggers, swords, and knives with fixed blades longer than four (4) inches. Objects that, while not designed as a weapon, but are in the moment used as one (e.g., a student who strikes another with a baseball bat), will be considered a weapon under this policy. It does not include chemical repellents available over-the-counter for self-defense or instruments used solely for personal hygiene.
Policy Statements
The University prohibits possession of weapons of any kind on University property (excluding commercial and residential leaseholds), with the limited exceptions noted in the Scope and Application section of this policy. Threatening to use a weapon, regardless of whether a weapon is present, will also be considered a violation of this policy.

Storage and Additional Regulations
The Sewanee Police Department provides undergraduate and graduate students a lawful means of storage on campus for long guns they plan to use for legal recreational activities. One long gun, a firearm which is fired while braced against the shoulder, with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds of ammunition, is permitted per student and may be stored by the Sewanee Police Department for any semester or summer term in which the student is enrolled and has completed a safekeeping agreement. Normally, students must remove their stored weapons from campus at the end of each semester or term. Stored weapons will be released only after ownership is verified. Any student possessing or maintaining a long gun on University property without completing the safekeeping agreement and storing the long gun with the Sewanee Police Department when not in use is in violation of this Policy.

Employees and students who bring weapons onto University property will be subject to sanctions which may include discharge, suspension, or expulsion. Furthermore, employees, students, contractors, and others who bring weapons onto University property are subject to arrest. Weapons brought onto campus property in violation of this policy will be confiscated.

Any employee who intends to have a permitted weapon in his or her vehicle while on a University parking lot must complete a disclosure form, available at the Sewanee Police Department, and provide proof that the employee has a valid handgun carry permit and owns the vehicle in which it will be stored. Employees who fail to abide by these carry permit rules will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.

Consequences
Possessing or threatening to use a weapon in violation of this Policy is a serious issue and as such, the likely outcome of such an incident is separation from the University. Referral to local law enforcement and the application of criminal charges is also likely. The weapon and any ammunition will also be forfeited.

Responsibilities
This policy is a safety policy, which is overseen by the Sewanee police department. Policy enforcement is a shared responsibility between the Sewanee police department and the dean of students office. Policy changes are reviewed by risk management and legal counsel and approved by the Provost’s office.

Procedures
Weapon violations are routed through the police department, and student violations are also routed through the appropriate dean’s office, most commonly the dean of students office.

Revision Date
August 2018