NUMBER: 1013

TITLE: Firearms, Weapons, and Certain Related Devices

APPROVED: September 19, 2008; Revised September 15, 2011

In the course of pursuing its mission as an institution of higher education of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Old Dominion University seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for its students, faculty, staff, and all others coming on campus. This policy regulates use of privately owned firearms, and prohibits firearms, related devices and weapons on campus to the extent permitted by law.

Application:

A. Old Dominion University's students, employees, volunteers, and invitees may not carry firearms, weapons, or related devices on campus.

B. Persons lawfully on campus, other than those listed in paragraph A above and who are not conceal carry permit holders, may not carry firearms, weapons or related devices into any building or facility on campus.

C. This policy does not apply to conceal carry permit holders unless the permit holder is also a student, employee, volunteer or invitee.

Definitions:

1. "Campus" means any land in Virginia, with or without buildings or structures, owned or leased by the University, or otherwise under its control.

2. "Concealed Carry Permit Holder" is a person who is permitted to carry a concealed weapon pursuant to Virginia Code §18.2-308.

3. "Employee" means any person providing personal services under the direction and control of the University either full or part-time, whatever the basis for compensation may be.

4. "Firearms" means any pistol, rifle, shotgun, or other device designed or intended to propel a bullet, shot, or any other object of any kind as the result of an explosion of any combustible material whether or not the same is actually capable of being fired or discharged. "Firearms" includes pistols permitted to be carried or worn concealed. "Firearms" does not include firearms issued by the University, federal, state, and local agencies, departments, or the armed services, and carried in the performance of duty, or otherwise in accordance with the instructions of the issuing authority.

5. “Invitee” means any person other than an employee coming on campus for a business purpose, or in connection with the performance of a contract with the University. Solely for the purpose of this policy, the term does not include members of the general public including family of students, and alumni and former students of the University.

6. “Related Devices” means realistic replicas of firearms, including such replicas sold or traded as “toys” (other than transparent, brightly colored water guns), paintball guns, BB or pellet rifles and pistols, sling shots, bows and arrows, and crossbows and bolts.

7. “Students” means any person who (1) has been admitted to or has enrolled or intends to enroll at the University, and (2) has not completed a program of study for which she/he was enrolled. Student status continues whether or not the University’s academic programs are in session.

8. "Volunteer" means a person meeting the criteria of, and selected and supervised according to University Policy 6023, “Guidelines for the Use of Volunteers.”

9. “Weapons,” means knives (other than knives used for domestic purposes, pen or folding knives with blades less than three inches in length, and box cutters, and utility knives kept or carried for use in accordance with the purpose intended by the original seller), machetes, straight razors, spring sticks, metal knucks, blackjacks; any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain; any disc, of whatever configuration having at least two points or pointed blades, which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, mace and any electrical conduction weapon including tasers.

Policy:

1. Firearms, weapons and related devices may not be carried, maintained or kept anywhere on campus, including in automobiles parked on campus, as limited by the “Application” provisions of this policy, except as permitted and described in paragraph 4..

2. a. During bow and crossbow hunting seasons, bows and crossbows with arrows and bolts may be stored with the ODU Police Department by students residing on campus, and may be so stored at other times for use in organized competitions. The Department shall accept and store bows and crossbows in accordance with Department procedures. These procedures shall make provision for bow and crossbow storage at all times, and for reasonable access to withdraw them; and,

   b. Any student residing on campus having lawful possession of a firearm may store the firearm and ammunition at the ODU Police Department during any hunting season, and at other times for use in organized competitions and at target ranges licensed to do such business. The Department shall accept and store firearms in accordance with Department procedures; provided that such procedures shall make provision for firearms storage at all times, and for reasonable access to withdraw them.

3. For the purpose of the foregoing subparagraphs, bows, crossbows, and firearms shall be brought from their off-campus location directly to the place of storage designated by the Department.

4. Exceptions to this policy may, for good cause shown, be made at the discretion of the President and University police chief. Any such application shall be in writing, and shall state with particularity the exception sought and the reason for same. Additional information may be required of the applicant, and the application and any additional information may be required to be submitted in the form of an affidavit.

5. When firearms are carried on campus as permitted by this policy, they shall be carried with the muzzle angled up or down so as to avoid pointing the firearm at oneself, or any other person. All firearms, including those permitted to be concealed, that have a safety feature shall have the safety in the "on" position. All semi-automatic firearms shall be carried with an empty breech or firing chamber. All revolvers shall be carried with an empty chamber to the immediate left or right of the barrel, depending on whether the cylinder turns clockwise or counterclockwise, and the chamber under the hammer shall be empty as well, unless the revolver is hammerless. All shotguns and other firearms that break to be loaded shall be carried broken and unloaded.

6. Violations of the foregoing policy shall be reported to the appropriate authority within the University for such disciplinary action as may be appropriate under the circumstances, including suspension, dismissal, termination and trespass. Failure to report a violation of this policy may itself result in disciplinary action.