

Resolution: 2016-01
Authors: Rita Gonzales, Staff Assembly Environment Committee Chair
Susan Biddlecomb, Staff Assembly Environment Committee
Amanda Blumenthal, Smoke-Free Campus Coalition
Aaron Rifkind, USG Residential Senator
Date: April 18, 2016
RE: Smoke-Free USC

WHEREAS, cigarette use and exposure to secondhand smoke are the leading preventable causes of death in the United States, killing more than 480,000 Americans each year, which is more than the combined death toll of illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, firearm-related incidents, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).¹

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and establishing smoke-free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.¹

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found secondhand tobacco smoke to be a risk to public health and has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class of carcinogen.²

WHEREAS, 20% of social smokers become daily smokers over the course of a four-year college period.³

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2016, there are at least 1,475 100% smoke-free campuses. Of these, 1,128 are 100% tobacco-free, and 802 prohibit the use of e-cigarettes anywhere on campus.⁴

WHEREAS, nine of the PAC 12 schools are already smoke-free or tobacco-free campuses.

WHEREAS, all ten University of California campuses are 100% tobacco-free.⁵

WHEREAS, a peer-reviewed study published in 2015 found that adopting a 100% tobacco-free policy had no impact on student enrollment or applications.⁶

¹ The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General (2014)

² <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-designates-passive-smoking-class-or-known-human-carcinogen>

³ https://tobaccofree.ucr.edu/instructional_resources/pdf/tobacco_fact_sheet.pdf

⁴ <http://no-smoke.org/pdf/smokefreecollegesuniversities.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.ucop.edu/risk-services/loss-prevention-control/uc-smoke-tobacco-free.html>

⁶ Miller, Kimberly D., et al. "Impact of the Adoption of Tobacco-Free Campus Policies on Student Enrollment at Colleges and Universities, North Carolina, 2001-2010." *Journal of American College Health* 63.4 (2015): 230-6. Web.

WHEREAS, the CDC found that among adult smokers, 70% report that they want to quit smoking completely⁷ and that tobacco users find it easier to reduce their consumption or quit entirely when they are in a tobacco-free environment.⁸

WHEREAS, the Spring 2016 Daily Trojan Editorial Board called for a smoke-free USC.⁹

WHEREAS, the Staff Assembly Environment Committee circulated a survey requesting the staff's opinions about smoking at USC from November 18, 2015 to November 30, 2015.

WHEREAS, of the 2,271 USC staff members who answered the survey (1,515 respondents from UPC and 756 respondents from other campuses), 82% of the survey respondents supported or remained neutral to USC becoming 100% smoke-free.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USC Staff Assembly joins the Smoke-Free Campus Coalition in urging that the administration of University of Southern California implement a 100% smoke-free and tobacco-free policy to create a healthier environment for students, employees, and visitors; to support tobacco users who are trying to quit; and to reduce the number of new tobacco users by promoting the social norm of a tobacco-free environment. As defined herein, a smoke-free and tobacco-free policy means that smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, the use of unregulated nicotine products, and the use of electronic smoking devices (which includes e-cigarettes) is strictly prohibited on all University-owned and -operated properties.¹⁰

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USC Staff Assembly urges that the administration of University of Southern California create a Smoke-Free Campus Task Force that will work with the Smoke-Free Campus Coalition to draft a new smoke-free and tobacco-free policy, implement the new policy effective Fall 2016, provide smoking cessation services to students and employees wishing to quit smoking, and ensure ongoing compliance with the new policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as an R1 research university with faculty and students who research and tend to the effects of smoking and tobacco use, the USC Staff Assembly urges the administration of University of Southern California to recognize its responsibility to exercise leadership in the promotion of a healthy, smoke/tobacco-free environment for all students, employees, and visitors.

Moved: Environment and Safety Committee

Second: —

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette smoking among adults — United States, 2004. *MMWR* 2005;54:1121–1124.

⁸ Osinubi OYO, Slade J. Tobacco in the workplace. *Occupational Medicine* 2002;17(1):137–158.

⁹ <http://dailytrojan.com/2016/02/25/its-time-for-usc-to-become-smoke-free/>

¹⁰ http://www.ucop.edu/risk-services/_files/UC-RK-13-0221_SmokeandTobaccoFreeEnvironment%20Issuance%20Ltr.pdf

Ayes: 48

Nays: 1

Abstentions: 1

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