

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
HEALTH COUNCIL
concerning
A TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

Presented at the
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A Tobacco-Free Campus

The University Health Council submits a motion to designate the campus as a “Tobacco-Free Campus.” This motion requires revising and updating the current 1993 University “Smoke-Free Policy.” The goals of revising this existing policy are to better communicate the problems tobacco use is creating on campus, assist in the prevention of tobacco-related morbidity and mortality, and to promote civic and individual wellness on our campus. The factors that led to these recommendations include:

- There has been a dramatic increase over the past decade in the numbers of college-age smokers. The national prevalence of smoking among college students increased between 1993 and 1997 from 22% to 28%, and has stayed close to this level.
- A full 30% of all cancer deaths are caused by tobacco. Furthermore, 33% of all smokers will die prematurely because of their tobacco use.
- Media reports have documented tobacco company sponsorship of bar nights, band contests, magazine advertising and other forms of marketing effective at reaching college-age customers.
- Studies from the Harvard School of Public Health published in March 2001 in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* and the *Journal of American College Health* reported that colleges and universities can reduce smoking among students by making residence halls smoke-free and improving smoking cessation programs. Students, who enter college as nonsmokers, are 40% less likely to begin smoking if they live in smoke-free residence halls than are students who live in unrestricted housing.
- As owners of residential property, the university has the right to regulate the way the space is treated. Significant smoking-related damage, from extra cleaning to fires, harms property and costs the school money. Two fires in UMASS residence halls began in smoking lounges in the last decade. (Hamlin Residence Hall in October 1993 and James House Residence Hall in October 1996 resulting in significant expense and some injuries.) Other universities have suffered tragic deaths from residence hall smoking related materials.
- The present UMASS policy allows for smoking in residence hall space designated as “smoking lounges.” Despite this attempt to limit smoking, numerous complaints are registered from non-smoking students due to the smoke that escapes from these lounges into hallways and nearby rooms. Every year students with asthma and allergies have been forced to either move to other areas of the residence halls, or move out of the residence halls entirely, because of the adverse irritation of secondary smoke.
- Some area colleges and universities have already mandated that all residence halls will be tobacco-free.
- The American Cancer Society developed a “Smoke-Free New England Campus Initiative” and many colleges and universities have already adopted their recommendations, which are included in our Tobacco-Free Campus motion.
- Increasingly UMASS employees are requesting better enforcement of existing smoking regulations. Secondary smoke, which can be irritating and offensive to non-smokers, is drifting into windows and entrances of buildings affecting places of work.
- It is essential that the University provide bold leadership in the continued effort to ensure a safe living, learning, and working environment, free from the hazards of tobacco, for the members of the University community.

**Motion of the University Health Council
November 20, 2002**

WHEREAS, the University Health Council recommends policies concerning the health needs of the campus community, and

WHEREAS, the University Health Council is further charged with advising campus administrators on the operation of health-related programs, and

WHEREAS, the Health Council has considered the known hazards and adverse health effects of tobacco, including the direct or secondhand exposure to smoke, to the many individuals of the University Community, and

WHEREAS, the Health Council has reviewed the current University Smoke-Free Policy dated October 1, 1993, and

WHEREAS, the University Administration has a legal and moral obligation to provide a safe living and working environment, free from the hazards of tobacco, to the members of the University community,

Therefore the University Health Council Moves,

That the University actively designate the campus as a **Tobacco-Free Campus**, and that the existing Smoke-Free Policy be revised to include the following:

1. Smoking shall be prohibited in residence halls as soon as possible, but no later than September 2004.
2. Smoking will be prohibited in campus buildings and in areas of the campus where non-smokers cannot avoid exposure to smoke, including partially enclosed areas such as covered walkways, breezeways and walkways between sections of buildings, and bus-stop shelters; areas immediately adjacent to building entrances; and exterior stairways and landings.
3. The University will strengthen accessible tobacco treatment on campus for students, faculty, and staff.
4. The sale of all tobacco products on campus will be prohibited.
5. The free distribution of tobacco products on campus will be prohibited.
6. Tobacco advertisements will be prohibited in University and student run publications.
7. Campus organizations will be prohibited from accepting money or gifts from tobacco companies when given for the purpose of advertisement or the implied intention of buying loyalty for their tobacco products.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the motion by the Health Council to designate the
13-03 campus as a Tobacco-Free Campus, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-014.