

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
UNIVERSITY HEALTH COUNCIL
concerning
POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Presented at the
483rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
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**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
POLICY ON
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE**

DECEMBER 1992

Preamble:

Increasing concern about the effects of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) on the health and welfare of faculty, staff and students prompts the University to revise the September 1987 policy on USE OF SMOKING MATERIALS (Senate Document #86-013) for use by the Amherst campus. This policy is intended, as a minimum, to comply with the State Clean Indoor Air Law (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 21 and 22 as amended 1988).

Definition:

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is tobacco smoke in the ambient atmosphere composed of exhaled smoke and the smoke from the burning end of a cigarette, cigar or pipe.

The Problem:

- a) Over the past few years, several agencies or bodies have requested that an all inclusive campus policy be established protecting the rights and privileges of both smokers and non-smokers, including the Faculty Senate (42-79), Graduate Senate, (March 14, 1977) and Personnel Office (July 14, 1978). Student surveys by SAREO (September 29, 1976 and September 17, 1980), further reinforce the desirability of a policy among students. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through Legislative Act (Chapter 270, Section 21 and 22 as amended 1988), Administrative Policy Directive from the Secretary for Administration and Finance (State Policy on Smoking in the Workplace, 1987), and the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, Office of the State Fire Marshal (527 CMR 10.00; April 1, 1979), have also created policies affecting our campus.
- b) ETS presents potential health effects for all on campus. Personal health problems include: eye and throat irritation, headache, rhinitis, and coughing. In allergic persons, ETS may cause wheezing, sneezing and nausea. The strong association between smoking and certain forms of cancer and emphysema is well known (NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletin 54: Environmental Tobacco Smoke in the Workplace, Lung Cancer and Other Health Effects; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; June 1991). Studies show that respirable suspended particulates that result from smoking may overwhelm the effects of building ventilation and inflict significant air pollutions burdens on all people in closed spaces. In effect non-smokers, the majority on campus, are increasingly affected negatively by the quality of air within closed spaces where ETS is prevalent.
- c) Workplace chemicals may be transformed into more harmful agents by smoking (NIOSH Bulletin 31, February 5, 1979).

Policy:

The University of Massachusetts/Amherst shall be smoke-free in all public and individual work areas.

THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHALL BE SMOKE-FREE

- a) **All classrooms, stairwells, restrooms, public areas, food service areas, food preparation areas, waiting rooms, visitor reception areas, lobbies, entrance ways and auditoriums or similar large congregating areas.**
- b) **All work sites including individual faculty and administrative offices.**
- c) **All rooms in which business meetings are regularly conducted, or in which a business meeting is in progress.**
- d) **University Health Services, which is entirely smoke-free as of 1 June 1992, consistent with the appropriate accreditation standards for health care facilities.**
- e) **Any state vehicles in which any occupant is a non-smoker.**

SMOKING IS ALLOWED ONLY IN:

- a) **Designated guest rooms of the Campus Center hotel.**
- b) **Certain University owned and leased individual rooms and apartments, including Residential Halls in accordance with policy established by Housing Services.**

Compliance:

The Chancellor, through his/her Deans, Directors and Department Heads, is responsible for compliance with this policy. The Division of Human Resources is available to assist Department Heads in addressing related personnel issues. The Division of Environmental Health and Safety may be contacted for consultation regarding the implementation of the policy.

The University is committed to resolving all issues of non-compliance. Individuals do have the right, as provided for by State law, to file a written complaint with the responsible Department Head. The Department Head has fifteen days to respond in writing to the complainant, including a statement about how the problem will be resolved. The Department Head shall file a copy of both the complaint and the response with the Division of Human Resources of the University and with the Office of Smoking Compliance, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 150 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 280, Section 21 & 22, as amended 1988).

**MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Policy on Environmental Tobacco Smoke for the
14-93 Amherst Campus of the University as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 93-025A.**