

**Report from the Staff Affairs Committee
for the
September 23, 2014 Staff Council Meeting**

The Staff Affairs Committee met at 10am on September 3 in Murie 330.

There was only one item of discussion which focused on the Chancellor's request for updated information on the Smoke Free Campus issue.

Comments from the previous survey (about 18 months ago) were made available. Jarkko Toivanen and Jeff Baxter agreed to review the comments to extract 3-4 comments on each side of the issue to be used in formulating a new survey.

The following are the comments Jarkko and Jeff recommend be used in a future survey:

Against the ban:

- Smoking and tobacco use is not against the law. Smokers already have to comply with rules when they're on campus by smoking in designated outdoor spaces. It seems en vogue nowadays to attack smokers and smoking. The reality is, if you don't like it, don't do it. Everyone has the right to make their own decisions. Creating a smoke-free or tobacco-free campus is over-the-top.
- I am not a smoker but I don't think it's right to take away a person's right to their vices. I also think that you couldn't really enforce this and if you tried it would be a waste of time/energy. I do appreciate the signs letting people know they have to remain a certain distance from building entrances, though there's no way to enforce this either (which is why I think there's no way you could enforce people to not smoke).
- Enforcement of current restrictions should be made a priority. Adding more rules which may not be enforced (as is the case with current restrictions) does not make sense. The impacts on populations with higher use of tobacco products needs to be taken into consideration in a realistic and non-discriminatory manner.

For the ban:

- This would make UAF a much nicer place to be (no cigarette butts on the ground, no smoke clouds outside building entrances). Moreover, it would help a lot of faculty and staff who smoke take steps toward quitting, and ultimately reduce health care costs.
- I think doing so will assist in promoting healthy lifestyles in students, staff, faculty, etc.
- Since the University is promoting good health and prevention, I feel it is essential to have a smoke and tobacco free campus.

The committee recommends a new survey be published that basically asks participants whether they are for or against a Smoke Free Campus (leaving no space for comments).

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Baxter, Chair