

Fresh Air Campus Challenge (FACC) Committee
Report for Staff Council Meeting #258

Members: Brad Krick

The FACC group met on January 14 and on January 28. The group will continue to meet every two to four weeks for the foreseeable future.

In December, the Board of Regents approved a change in policy making all UA properties tobacco-free. The group's first meeting focused on recommending a date for when to implement a no-tobacco policy at UAF. We were given four dates to consider: July 1, August 20, November 1, and December 1 (the deadline for all UA properties specified by Statewide). The group recommended Dec 30 - not a date originally offered - with the reasoning that delaying that starting the policy in July or August would be too soon but that starting in the middle of the semester, especially close to finals, would be a bad idea. Starting in between the semesters gives us a chance to advertise resources and the coming change, and lets current students and employees know that things will be different when they return from winter break. If Dec 30 was not an option, the group supported either July 1 or August 20 because we felt it would be best to not begin in the middle of a semester.

The group talked about other ideas for implementation, including starting enforcement of the current 50 foot rule and using Springfest as an event to test out going smoke-free.

At our second meeting, we had guests from the American Lung Association and Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. They shared tips and took questions about implementing a tobacco-free policy. Octavia Harris from the ALA said that most universities use a 12 to 24 month timetable and that starting a tobacco-free policy in the middle of the semester does not work as well as starting at the beginning of a semester. They encouraged starting early, creating scripts to aid in politely informing people of the new policy, looking for champions who can help encourage smoking cessation, creating support groups, providing cessation products like the patch or gum, and so on.

At one of the group's next meetings, Marketing and Communication will attend to talk about how to communicate this change in policy.