

Failed by Roll Call Vote
4-21-2
53-R-9

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A TOBACCO-FREE
CAMPUS TASKFORCE

1 WHEREAS, it is a primary responsibility of the University
2 of Wisconsin-Eau Claire to promote the health, safety, comfort,
3 and general welfare of all those visiting, employed by, and/or
4 studying at the university; and

5 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, as an
6 institute of higher education, promotes, healthy choices for all
7 those visiting, employed by, and/or studying at the university;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, there is evidence of a public health concern
10 created by secondhand smoke and tobacco use; and

11 WHEREAS, Student Health Services has surveyed the
12 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus and found that the
13 majority of students (57%), staff (64%) and faculty (66%) are in
14 favor of a Tobacco-Free Campus (this would mean that tobacco,
15 including products such as cigarettes, cigars, and chewing
16 tobacco would not be allowed on University of Wisconsin-Eau
17 Claire property, both indoors and outdoors, as stated in the
18 survey); and

19 WHEREAS, the comments section of the Student Health
20 Services Survey has provided personal examples of the noxious
21 effects that secondhand smoke has on students' and employees'
22 health; and

23 WHEREAS, these noxious effects have in turn hampered
24 student learning and employee productivity; and

25 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has already
26 recognized the hazards of smoking by prohibiting smoking inside
27 its buildings and facilities; and

28 WHEREAS, there is no effective enforcement of the 25-foot
29 rule that has been established for a smoking perimeter around
30 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire building entrances; and

31 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke travels extensively, even
32 outside, and smoke from outdoors can enter buildings through
33 doorways, windows, air intakes, etc., resulting in chemicals
34 from smoke entering campus buildings; and

35 WHEREAS, an Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *Secondhand*
36 *Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the*
37 *Evidence*, has confirmed that exposure to secondhand smoke is a
38 significant cause of heart attacks among nonsmokers; and

39 WHEREAS, smokeless tobacco is a known human carcinogen and
40 is known to cause oral health problems; and

41 WHEREAS, smokeless tobacco is more addictive because it
42 contains a higher level of nicotine than do cigarettes; and

43 WHEREAS, it is a responsibility of the University of
44 Wisconsin-Eau Claire to maintain the campus grounds as an
45 attractive and congenial place in which to work, study, and
46 exercise; and

47 WHEREAS, the existing policy has done little to remove the
48 unsightliness of tobacco-related litter; and

49 WHEREAS, the Student Wellness Advocacy Team has researched
50 proposals and effective policies of other campuses across the
51 nation; and

52 WHEREAS, implementing a tobacco-free policy is a societal
53 movement that is gaining acceptance throughout the country,
54 particularly in institutions of higher education and workplaces;
55 and

56 WHEREAS, fellow universities within the North Central
57 College Health Association have already enacted similar
58 policies; and

59 WHEREAS, the benefits of tobacco-free campuses have been
60 increasingly recognized by institutions of higher learning
61 across the country, and currently more than 150 campuses have
62 implemented similar policies; and

63 WHEREAS, creating a tobacco-free environment on the UW-Eau
64 Claire campus would send a message to the students, faculty and
65 staff about the University's commitment to the health and safety
66 of its students and employees; and

67 WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire has stated in Ordinance No.
68 6819 that, "it is recognized that smoking of tobacco-related
69 products is hazardous to the Health of both smokers and
70 nonsmokers who are exposed to smoking. Reliable scientific
71 studies, including studies conducted by the Surgeon General of
72 the United States, have shown that breathing sidestream or
73 secondhand smoke is a significant health hazard to nonsmokers,
74 particularly to children, elderly people, individuals with
75 cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired
76 respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with
77 obstructive airway disease. Health hazards induced by breathing
78 sidestream or secondhand smoke include lung cancer, respiratory
79 infection, decreased respiratory function, decreased exercise
80 tolerance, bronchoconstriction, and bronchospasm";

81 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Chancellor will be
82 charged with the formation of a taskforce, that will consist of
83 entities such as, but not limited to, faculty, staff, Student
84 Health Services and Counseling Services, Housing and Residence
85 Life personnel, University Police, Human Resources, neighborhood
86 liaisons, Facilities Planning, Center for International
87 Education, and Admissions; and

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the taskforce will be charged
89 with the specific goal of researching, evaluating, and
90 developing a policy for a tobacco-free campus; and

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the taskforce will present
92 their findings to Student Senate for final approval of
93 implementation by the end of the 53rd Session of Student Senate;
94 and

95 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President
96 Umhoefer transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-
97 Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice
98 Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs;
99 Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Dave Gessner,
100 Assistant Chancellor, Budget & Finance; Mike Rindo, Executive
101 Director, University Communications; Charles Farrell, Director,
102 University Centers; Laura Chellman, Director, Health Services;
103 Dr. Patrick Kennedy, Director, Counseling Services; Charles
104 Major, Director, Housing & Residence Life; University Police;
105 Terry Classen, Director, Facilities Planning; Dr. Karl Markgraf,
106 Director, Center for International Education; Kristina Anderson,
107 Executive Director, Admissions; Jaci Schantz, Student Wellness
108 Advocacy Team member; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of
109 Students, Dean of Students Office.

SUBMITTED BY:
Patrick Bloecher, Health Service Chairperson and
Off-Campus Senator
November 9, 2009