



# UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN - EAU CLAIRE

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February 5, 2021

Dear Physical Plant Planning Committee,

I am writing to express support for your draft policy proposal “Supporting cessation and prevention: Towards a commercial tobacco-free campus.”

Mayo Clinic Health System - Eau Claire’s facilities and grounds have been tobacco-free since November of 2006. The intent of this tobacco-free policy is to reduce the health risks of tobacco use and passive smoke. The policy also enhances safety by reducing the risk of fire safety hazards.

The World Health Organization and Surgeon General have concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke. A commercial tobacco-free campus would protect students, employees, and visitors from secondhand smoke. Furthermore, creating environments free from commercial tobacco products cultivates a culture of not using these products, leading to fewer people starting to use these products, as well as promoting cessation, which would enhance the health of current and future generations.

We have made great headways in our fight against commercial tobacco and its serious health consequences. Tobacco-free campuses and workplaces have made a substantial difference in this fight and have ultimately served to decrease the heavy burden of tobacco on our society.

I am very pleased that the proposal addresses the need to support cessation. Nicotine is a highly addictive substance; people will need help quitting if they choose to do so in anticipation of a policy change. When Mayo Clinic adopted a tobacco-free policy, they offered support in the form of cessation classes. Support in the form of classes, 1:1 coaching, and increased access to FDA-approved cessation products would be crucial to supporting people who want to quit.

Thank you for considering this important policy. On behalf of Student Health Service and Mayo Clinic Health System – Eau Claire, I offer my wholehearted support for adopting a commercial tobacco-free campus policy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Frodl  
Medical Director  
Student Health Service  
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire