

# **Tobacco Work Group Final Report**

**Morningside Campus 2010**



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## **Abstract**

In 2008, following inquiries from the NYC Health Commissioner and changes to New York State law, Columbia University convened a tobacco work group to consider changes to the University tobacco policies. The group, made up of student and staff representatives from 12 different schools and departments, investigated best practices for tobacco policy on college campuses around the country. The work group has developed recommendations presented in this report reflecting dissonance around a primary option and offering a possible compromise option. This report includes feedback from key campus constituents that demonstrates majority support for a smoke-free core of campus proposal. Additionally, the report reflects the process of the working group, sample feedback gathered, and supporting documentation.

## Executive Summary

### ***Introduction***

In 2008, following changes to New York State law prohibiting smoking in college and university residence halls, and inquiries from the NYC Health Commissioner regarding Columbia's campus tobacco policy, the Vice President for Campus Services, Mr. Scott Wright, convened a Tobacco Work Group. Mr. Wright's charge to the committee was to review all existing University tobacco-related policies and relevant state and city regulations, and make recommendations for ultimate review by the University Senate.

This Executive Summary provides a brief overview of the Work Group's efforts and final recommendations.

### ***Tobacco Work Group***

Chaired by Michael McNeil, the Director of Alice! Health Promotion of Health Services, the Work Group included student and staff representatives from 12 separate Morningside schools and departments (see page 2). Over two years, the Work Group reviewed all University tobacco policies; New York State and City statutory regulations; best practices recommendations from organizations focused on the public health ramifications of tobacco; the scholarly literature related to tobacco and its long-term health effects; and policy documents from other U.S. colleges and universities, including peer institutions.

As part of its process, the Work Group additionally invited discussion and feedback from the broad University community by in-person and electronic means. In these sessions, the Group received input regarding several options including 1) a campus-wide No Smoking policy; 2) a minimum distance rule (anywhere between 20 and 50 feet); and, 3) No Change to current practice.

### ***Recommendation***

*Based on its two-year evaluative process, the Work Group recommends the Morningside Campus adopt a "consistent distance rule" specifying smoking is only permitted when a person is **a minimum of 50 feet away from all buildings.***

This recommendation is consistent with New York State Law and public health best practices and provides an equitable balance between the concerns of smokers and non-smokers.

For the purposes of this recommendation, a building is defined as all components of a physical building structure including overhangs and air intakes. (Minor modifications to the distance could be considered, as necessary, to ensure safety.) Smoking receptacles should be moved at least 50 feet away from all campus buildings and that appropriate policy-related signage posted. Following adoption by the University Senate, the Work Group will assist schools and departments, as necessary, in updating relevant policy documents.

## **Columbia University Tobacco Work Group Representation**

Membership of the work group comprised student and staff representatives from 12 separate Morningside schools and departments and other relevant areas. Membership changed minimally during the two-year process, and included representation from the following:

### ***Schools:***

Columbia College  
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Sciences  
Graduate School of Business  
Graduate School of Journalism  
School of General Studies  
School of International and Public Affairs

### ***Administrative and Student Service Areas:***

Facilities  
Health Services  
Housing Services  
Human Resources  
Lerner Hall  
Libraries  
Public Safety  
Residential Programs  
Student Services

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## Recommendations

After an extensive process of meeting with key constituents and gathering both qualitative and quantitative data the work group developed five possible recommendations as follows:

- 1) Smoke-free core of campus (e.g. outside the gates);
- 2) Designated smoking areas;
- 3) Consistent distance rule (e.g. 20 feet from a building);
- 4) Time regulated (e.g. 7pm to 7am distance rule from undergraduate housing buildings, all other locations smoke free at all times); and
- 5) Update University policies to be compliant with applicable laws, but otherwise no changes.

### Initial Ideas

Over the course of the work group efforts a suggestion of limiting smoking to outside of the core of campus emerged as a leading proposal. While this idea gained some support, it was challenged by a number of key constituent groups whose primary advocacy was for updates to policy that reflect changes in state law and no other action. The work group considered all of the data collected during the process and conducted a vote on the five possible recommendations. The vote was divided as follows:

<b>Primary Choice</b>	<b>Percent Selecting</b>
Smoke-free core of campus	40
Designated smoking areas	0
Consistent distance rule	0
Time regulated	20
Update University policies to be compliant with applicable laws	40

<b>Secondary Choice</b>	<b>Percent Selecting</b>
Smoke-free core of campus	13.3
Designated smoking areas	26.7
Consistent distance rule	26.7
Time regulated	26.7
Update University policies to be compliant with applicable laws	6.7

As reflected in the tables above, the votes were equally divided and a second round of voting took place to determine the compromise recommendation.

## Final Recommendation

Consistent Distance Rule. After considering three choices for a compromise solution, the work group is recommending the Morningside Campus adopt a consistent distance rule. The votes, as reflected by percentage of member voting for each option are reflected below.

	<b>First Choice</b>	<b>Second Choice</b>	<b>Third Choice</b>
Designated smoking areas	30.8	<b>46.2</b>	23.1
Consistent distance rule	<b>46.2</b>	30.8	23.1
Time regulated	23.1	23.1	<b>53.8</b>

## Other Considerations

The following information presents possible recommendations discussed as part of the work group process.

### 1) Policy

- Develop single university-wide policy
  - No smoking on the core of campus
    - Within the main gates (114<sup>th</sup> to 120<sup>th</sup>, Broadway to Amsterdam)
    - Within the East Campus gates (116<sup>th</sup> to 118<sup>th</sup>, Amsterdam to Morningside – including the Amsterdam crossover)
    - Within the Medical Center campus (Riverside to Broadway, 165<sup>th</sup> to 168<sup>th</sup>, not including on the sidewalks along Ft. Washington Avenue)
    - At Lamont-Doherty Observatory (not including of parking lots)
    - Nevis Laboratory, to be determined
  - No smoking within 20 feet of building entrances and operable windows (measured to begin after overhangs, where appropriate) on public streets
  - No smoking within any University owned housing
    - Irrespective of occupant relationship to the University
    - Phased in approach beginning with graduate students and progressing to complete restriction within three years
  - No smoking in residential property leased, but not owned, by the University
    - Limit to individual apartments in mixed buildings
    - Common areas already governed by existing statute
  - Removal of cigarette receptacles from the non-smoking core areas
  - Placement of cigarette receptacles outside of the core campus areas at least 20 feet from building entrances, away from windows, and not on the main pathways
  - Placement of signage at all campus entrances and other identified areas
  - Annual dissemination of the policy to all members of the campus community

- Members of the campus community are responsible for addressing tobacco use by their guests

## 2) Enforcement

- Develop plan for enforcement for students
  - Request voluntary compliance
  - Dean's Discipline
- Develop plan for enforcement for employees
  - Request voluntary compliance
  - Human Resources Discipline
- Develop plan for enforcement for guests
  - Request voluntary compliance
  - Dean's Discipline/Human Resources Discipline for host
- Develop process to report violations and/or discuss concerns

## 3) Communication

- Develop plan to educate campus about new policy
  - Annual dissemination
  - Phase in considerations
  - Guide to Living
  - Faculty Handbook
  - New Employee Orientation
  - New Student Orientation(s)
  - Reporting of violations/concerns
- Develop plan to educate campus about services for cessation
  - Students (via Health Services)
  - Faculty/Staff (via Human Resources)
- Develop signage plan to support changes in policy and environmental management
- Develop strategies to communicate plans, cessation services, and other related issues

## 4) Cessation

- Promote existing cessation services for students
  - Students (via Health Services)
- Develop system to offer cessation services for employees
  - Faculty/Staff (via Human Resources)
- Investigate linkages with cessation in health insurance plans
  - student health insurance
  - employee health insurance

## 5) Environmental Management

- Placement of signage at all campus entrances
- Placement of signage on all building entrances from city streets and other key locations
- Development of plans for cleaning and maintaining receptacles



- Investigate impact on the surrounding community
  - Bar Owners Coalition
  - NYPD
  - Develop process to report violations and/or discuss concerns

## **Rationale for Change**

At Columbia University the following seven items were developed as part of the rationale for change.

### **1) Respect for the smoker**

Providing designated and clearly identified places where smoking is permitted

### **2) Respect for the non-smoker**

Providing designated places where smoking is not permitted

Consistent decrease in number of smokers at Columbia

Increase in community support for more smoke-free spaces

### **3) Respect for the aesthetics of the campus**

Preventing litter from cigarette or other tobacco waste

Preserving a clean and sanitary campus environment

Increase in community support for more smoke-free spaces

Reduction in staffing associated with clean up

### **4) Respect for the environment**

Cigarette waste, primarily the filters, do not readily biodegrade

Supporting the Columbia University green initiatives

Reduction in staffing associated with clean up

Lower fire risks

### **5) Increase in number of city, state, and federal regulations regarding smoking**

### **6) Transparency in policy and simplified source for current and correct information**

### **7) Encouraging healthier behaviors that translate to community and workplace benefits**

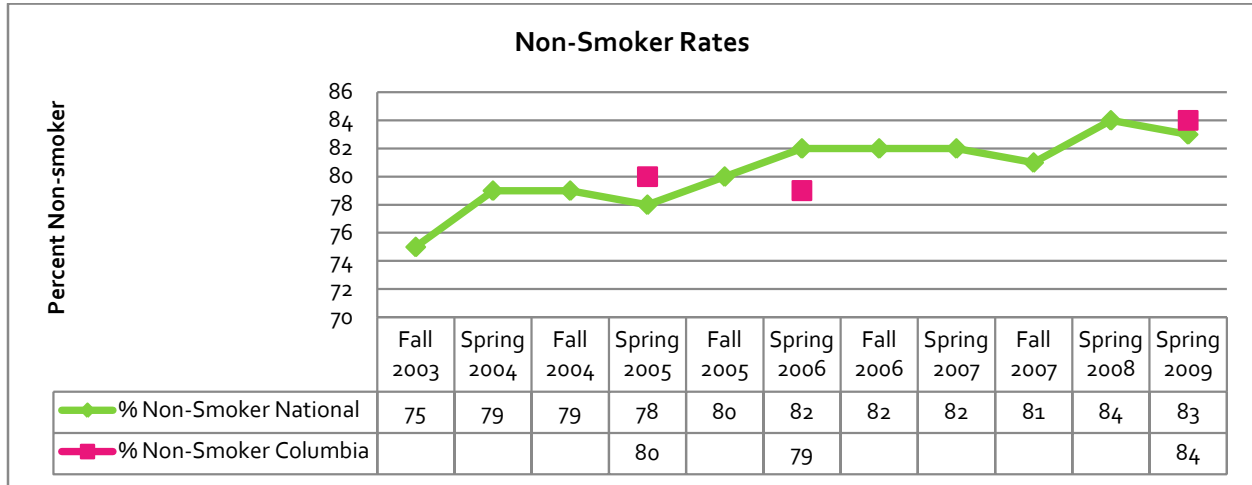
Increased staff productivity (including reducing lost time)

Reduced incidents of illness related to tobacco smoke exposure

Reduced costs associated with health care

Smoking Rates at Columbia

The following data summarizes the smoking rates among Columbia University Morningside Heights students compared to available national college student respondents:



All data presented in this chart was gathered utilizing the American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA). As can be seen, the number of non-smokers among students continues to increase over time and represents a significant majority of students both at Columbia and nationally.

Literature Summary

Smoking remains the number one cause of preventable death in America today (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2002). Additionally, smoking is associated with illness and injury due to second-hand smoke, property damage and repair costs, and residential fires and associated deaths due to them. As of November 2006, 20.9% of adults and 24.4% of young adults age 18-24 continue to smoke (CDC, 2006). At Columbia, the cigarette smoking prevalence rate is 17.4% for undergraduate students and 14.2% for graduate students (Columbia University ACHA-NCHA, 2009).

Numerous large-scale, high-quality studies indicate that policy change is perhaps the number one strategy available to support efforts to curb the prevalence of smoking and protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of environmental smoke (Wechsler, Lee, & Rigotti, 2001; Chaloupka & Weschsler, 1997; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006). Several hundred colleges and universities across the nation have already implemented policies regarding the use and non-use of tobacco.

The two most significant perceived barriers for universities to implement restrictive tobacco policies are cost and negative responses from the campus community. Significant literature is available that addresses issues related to student attitudes towards tobacco policies, cost/benefit analyses in the areas of fire safety and false fire alarms, room and grounds maintenance costs, and enhanced living and working environments in the residence halls (Gerson, et al. 2005, Rigotti, et al. 2003).

### Literature Review

Policy change is supported by a number of studies indicating a need for more restrictive tobacco policies on college campuses and specifically within residence halls and other university-owned housing. Research indicates that a school policy restricting smoking within residence halls can have positive behavioral effects on students. The number of student tobacco users has been on the rise on college campuses, and research indicates that more individuals are initiating tobacco use in their late teens and early twenties (Pierce et al., 1991; Wechsler, Rigotti, Gledhill-Hoyt, & Lee, 1998). Wechsler, Lee, and Rigotti (2001) found, however, that the prevalence of smokers was significantly lower in smoke-free college housing, and students living in smoke-free residence halls were significantly less likely to begin smoking than students who lived in unrestricted residence halls. Research has also shown that policy restricting tobacco use in public and private areas substantially lowers cigarette consumption among smokers (Chaloupka & Weschsler, 1997; Czart, Pacula, Chaloupka, & Weschsler, 2001) and also may lower student participation in tobacco use (Chaloupka & Weschsler, 1997). This research indicates that smoke-free housing may have a protective effect on both smokers and non-smokers on college campuses. Conversely, living in housing where smoking is permitted is also associated with alcohol and substance use and a lower sense of well-being (Patterson, Lerman, Kaufmann, Neuner, & Audrain-McGovern, 2004). These research results have been similarly replicated in studies assessing the effects of smoking bans in workplaces, indicating that restricting smoking significantly decreases the prevalence and daily consumption of cigarettes (Fichtenberg, & Glantz, 2002; Task Force on Community Preventive Services, 2005). Initiating a restrictive smoking policy would clearly decrease cigarette use among both smokers and potential smokers.

The adverse health effects of cigarette smoke are not only a risk to smokers. It is now widely accepted that environmental (second-hand) tobacco smoke can pose serious health risks to non-smoking individuals, even at low levels (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [USDHHS], 2006). Contrary to popular belief, recent research has indicated that separating smokers and ventilating or cleaning the air does not completely eliminate exposure to environmental smoke, and current heating, air-conditioning, and ventilation systems can actually help to distribute environmental smoke throughout a building (USDHHS, 2006). Further, research has shown that

creating smoke-free environments is the only way to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke, and even separately enclosed, exhausted, negative-pressure smoking areas do not prevent smoke from leaking into adjacent areas (USDHHS, 2006). This research has strong implications for college buildings. It is likely, particularly in older buildings, that an individual choosing to smoke in a building or near windows/doors/air intake vent is exposing many of the building occupants and workers to environmental smoke. A more restrictive smoking policy would eliminate this hazardous environmental exposure to our students and staff.

Studies have also suggested that the public are aware of the adverse health effects of smoking and environmental tobacco smoke and tend to be supportive of restrictive policy measures. The initiation of smoke-free state and local initiatives in the past decade has typically been met with high levels of support and compliance (USDHHS, 2006). In New York state, 63% of the public supported the smoke-free law before it was implemented in 2003 and 79% supported the law by 2005. During this time, the support from smokers nearly doubled (New York State Department of Health, 2005). On college campuses, Hines (1996) polled 547 non-smoking students and found that these students are not only less likely to want to date or room with a smoker, but that if they lived with a smoker, they would prefer to do so in a smoke-free residence hall. Students also claimed to be very bothered by environmental tobacco smoke and believed that environmental smoke increased their risk of disease. Similarly, Rigotti, Regan, Moran, and Wechsler (2003) report that a majority of the 10,904 nationally surveyed college students sampled supported anti-smoking policies, and over 75% of students favored smoke-free policies in all college buildings, residences, and dining areas. Rigotti et al. (2003) found that many smokers also favored banning smoking in college buildings. Further, Gerson, Allard, and Towvim (2005) studied the impact of smoking bans at three universities and found that students at all three schools reported a preference for smoke-free housing, the overall student satisfaction level improved with the policy change, and few to no students moved off campus as a result of the policy. The primary discontent of students in relation to this policy resulted from students having to smoke outside during inclement weather. These studies suggest that students acknowledge the risks of tobacco use and its associated environmental effects and that school communities have generally been supportive of a smoking ban in residence halls.

While positive public health effects associated with smoking policies are the primary motivation for creating policy on campus, it is also important to recognize the potential economic and safety impacts of such a policy. Gerson et al. (2005) reviewed the implementation of a smoke-free residence hall policy at three American universities (Montana State University, Bozeman, The Ohio State University, and the University of Rhode Island) and found that the schools reported reduced structural damage to

residence halls, including reduced carpet burns, window screen damage, burn damage to furniture varnish, and a decreased need to repaint rooms off-cycle. In contrast, all three universities reported low costs from increased outdoor smoking, including the installment and maintenance of outdoor cigarette butt receptacles, new cleaning tools, and a small increase of staff hours to clean up cigarette litter (ranging from \$2,800 to \$8,000). The universities reported that new policy had a minimal impact on work responsibilities. Enforcement was not difficult as there were few violations and RAs spent less time devoted to resolving smoking-related roommate problems.

Restricting smoking in buildings also offers substantial fire safety benefits to a college community. The improper disposal of cigarettes and other smoking materials is the sixth ranked cause of residential fires, and the number one cause of residential fire deaths because of the smoldering, slow-burning properties of cigarettes (Mowrer, 1999). Cigarettes may be less likely to be properly disposed of inside residence hall rooms in college communities where alcohol use is prevalent. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) recommends that smoking in campus housing be strictly regulated or prohibited (Mowrer, 1999). Further, Gerson et al. (2005) found that two of the three universities studied reported a decrease in the number of fire-alarms in the residence halls, which amounted to savings of at least \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the schools. This research indicates the importance of creating a smoke-free policy within residence halls, not only to protect students from fire hazards, but also in light of potential economic benefits to prohibiting indoor smoking.

In sum, research supports efforts to curb the harmful effects of tobacco use by initiating a policy that prohibits smoking within and near university buildings. A review of the literature indicates that communities are generally supportive of tobacco bans. Further, the health and economic benefits of implementing a more stringent smoking policy far outweigh the potential social and economic costs. This research has provided the ground work for creating an improved and safer living and working environment for Columbia's students and employees.

## **Timeline of Activities**

### Fall 2008

- Initial group appointed by Vice President Wright.
- Work group reviews national policy recommendations, guidelines, peer institutions, and existing campus policy documents.
- New state law takes effect prohibiting smoking in student residence halls.
- Discrepancies identified between existing Columbia University tobacco-policy documents.
- Updated tobacco cessation program for students launched by Health Services.

### Spring 2009

- Workgroup considers a number of possible ideas for policy update. Leading consensus-supported idea is to limit smoking to designated areas outside the gates.
- Workgroup solicits feedback on limiting smoking to outside campus gates. More than half of all respondents support the idea.

### Summer 2009

- Workgroup temporarily suspends activity and elects to wait for students to return in the fall.

### Fall 2009

- Workgroup reconvenes.
- Expands student participation.
- CUMC smoke-free policy takes effect.
- American College Health Association releases updated tobacco position statement calling for tobacco-free campuses.
- Student governance groups with support from the Tobacco Work Group conduct random poll of students regarding prohibiting smoking on campus. More than half of students support the proposal.

### Spring 2010

- CCSC passes a resolution opposing banning smoking on campus, but remains open to other options.
- Work group meets with Senate to discuss issue.
- Work group completes a set of recommendations and submits them to Vice President Wright.

## Feedback Processes

### Phase I - 2009

Based on the smoke-free core of campus recommendation then under consideration by the work group an e-mail invitation to participate in the feedback process was widely circulated on campus. The e-mail was sent by members of the work group to listservs, student/faculty/staff organizations, school contacts, and was printed in the online version of the Columbia Spectator.

The process focused on collecting feedback via an online, confidential web form and/or by inviting campus community members to participate in one of four open forum feedback sessions.

The four open comment sessions were conducted over two weeks with two daytime and two evening sessions to best accommodate diverse schedules. The sessions were held as follows:

- Tuesday, April 21, 2009 from 12:00 – 1:00pm in Lerner 477
- Friday, April 24, 2009 from 12:00 – 1:00pm in Lerner 568
- Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 5:00 – 6:00pm in Lerner 569
- Thursday, April 30, 2009 from 5:00 – 6:00pm in Lerner 569

Student outreach workers disseminated 1000 quarter page information flyers across the Morningside campus with requests for feedback via the web form or the open forum sessions. Additionally, a number of campus student media organizations provided coverage or discussed the feedback process.

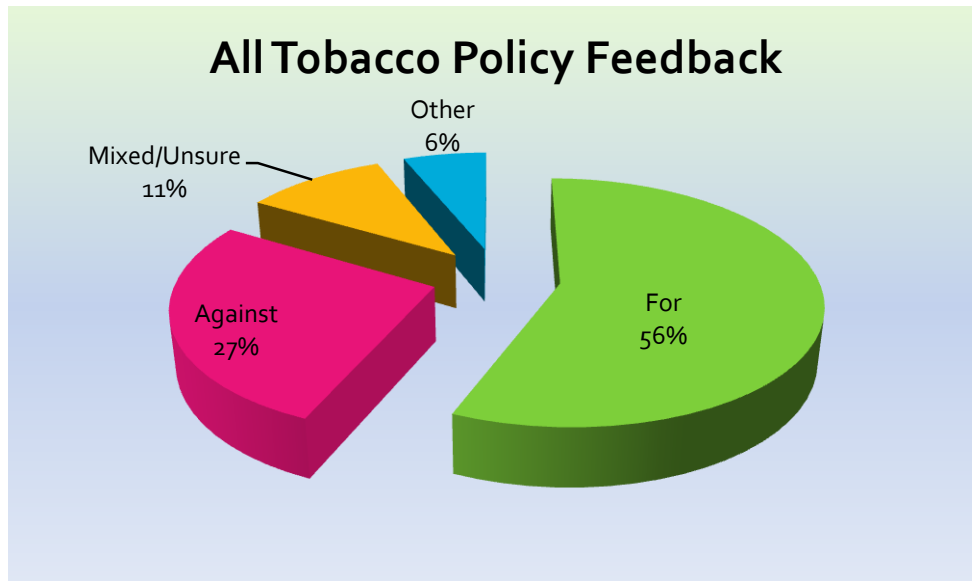
A total of 211 pieces of feedback were received. Following the feedback period, the proposal and community comments were reviewed by two committee members and summarized in this report.

This summary includes open forum, website, and e-mailed feedback. As can be seen below, the majority of respondents were students (78%). More than half of the feedback (56%) was in support of the proposal, just over a quarter was opposed (27%), with the remainder providing mixed, unclear, or other forms of feedback.



**All Tobacco Policy Feedback**

	Students	Faculty	Staff	TOTAL	Percentage
<b>For</b>	83	6	30	119	56%
<b>Against</b>	53	0	4	57	27%
<b>Mixed/Unclear</b>	16	0	6	22	10%
<b>Other</b>	13	0	0	13	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	165	6	40	211	
<b>Percentage</b>	78%	3%	19%		



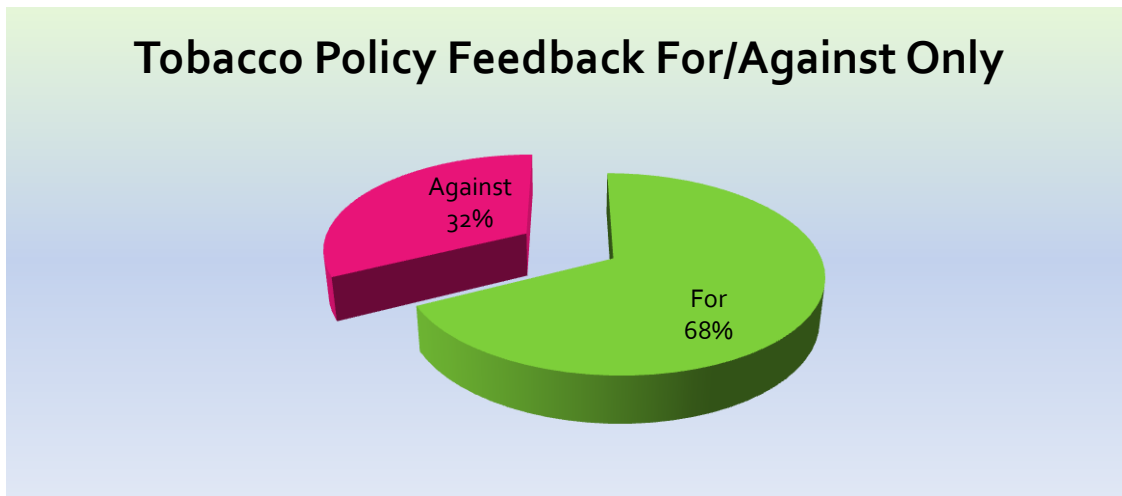
The web form was available for 14 days and we received 193 comments from campus community members. During a brief period of web form outage on the first day we received 15 additional pieces of feedback via e-mail. Three pieces of feedback were received via the open forums.

Finding Summary without Mixed/Unclear/Other

To provide a clearer perspective on the “for” or “against” comments, the committee removed the mixed, unclear and other feedback. The findings indicate that more than two thirds (68%) support the proposal.

**Feedback using For/Against Only**

	Students	Faculty	Staff	TOTAL	Percentage
<b>For</b>	83	6	30	119	68%
<b>Against</b>	53	0	4	57	32%
<b>TOTAL</b>	136	6	34	176	
<b>Percentage</b>	77%	3%	19%		



### Open Forum Feedback

We received feedback from three people across the four open comment sessions. No persons attended the first session and one person attended each of the three subsequent sessions.

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 from 12:00 – 1:00pm in Lerner 477	No participants
Friday, April 24, 2009 from 12:00 – 1:00pm in Lerner 568	One staff participant in favor of the proposal
Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 5:00 – 6:00pm in Lerner 569	One student participant opposed to the proposal
Thursday, April 30, 2009 from 5:00 – 6:00pm in Lerner 569	One student participant in favor of the proposal

### Phase II – 2009-2010

In the second phase of data collection a random sample of nearly 7200 students from the Morningside campus were invited to respond to an online survey to measure support or opposition to the smoke-free core of campus proposal. This initiative was led by the student members of the work group with support from the entire group. The following data summarizes the findings from the poll.

#### Demographic Considerations

- Sample size: 2370 responses (approximately 33% of invites)
- Gender: 40.2% Male, 59.7% Female
- Reweighting multipliers x0.85 Female, x1.22 Male
- Post-Gender Reweighted Sample = 2368
- Margin of Error 2% (with confidence of 95%)
- Re-weighting by School, based on participating schools (2009 populations)
- Post-School Reweighted Sample = 2379
- No re-weighting by Smoking Behaviour

The use of weighting in the analysis was to control for over representation among respondents from select demographic areas (school, gender).

## Key Findings

The following tables summarize the key findings:

Full Sample = 2379 (reweighted by Gender and School)

Support = 1213 (51%)	Oppose = 911 (38%)	DK / N = 255 (11%)
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The majority of respondents (51%) supported the proposal to create a smoke-free core of campus.

### By Gender

	Support	Oppose	DK / N
Women (1206)	681 (57%)	362 (30%)	163 (13%)
Men (1140)	512 (45%)	538 (47%)	90 (8%)

Women tended to support the proposal more than men. A statistical tie occurred among men regarding support or opposition.

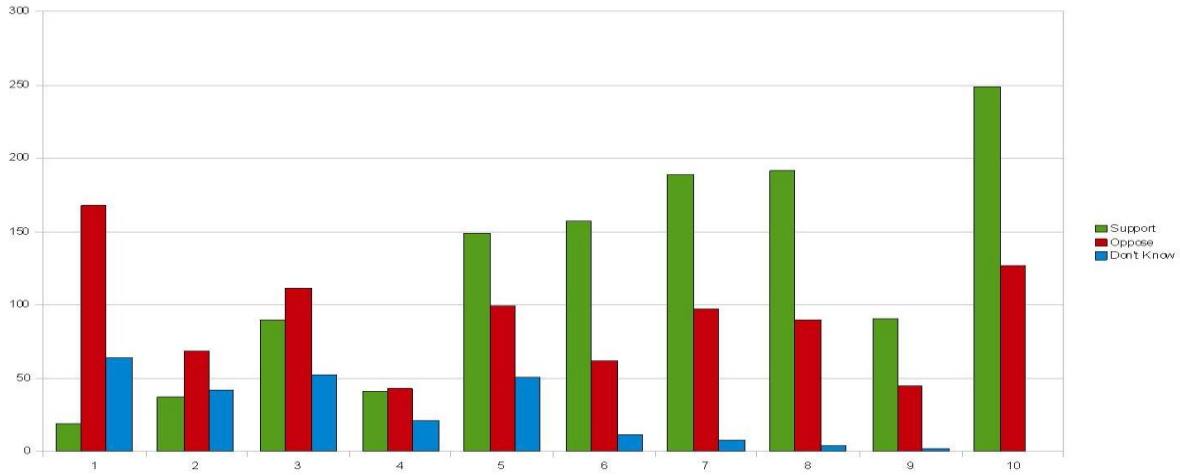
### By Smoking Status

	Support	Oppose	DK / N
Non-Smokers (1885)	979 (52%)	702 (37%)	205 (11%)
Smokers (426)	197 (46%)	192 (45%)	36 (9%)

Non-smokers were in favor of the proposal more than smokers. A statistical tie occurred among smokers regarding support or opposition.

### By Importance

As a part of the survey the respondents were asked to indicate the importance of the issue on a scale from 1 (not important) to 10 (very important). The chart below reflects the support for or opposition to the proposed smoke-free core of campus based on importance.



The importance scale indicated that those that cared more about the issue supported the proposed smoke-free core of campus.

## **Work Group Representation**

Membership of the work group comprised students and university employees drawn from a variety of areas. While some members of the group changed over the two year process, the following units were represented:

### Schools/Colleges

Columbia College

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering & Applied Sciences

Graduate School of Business

Graduate School of Journalism

School of General Studies

School of International and Public Affairs

### Non-Academic Units

Facilities

Health Services

Housing Services

Human Resources

Lerner Hall

Libraries

Public Safety

Residential Programs

Student Services

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## **Appendices**

### Appendix A

Current Policies

### Appendix B

Sample Feedback

### Appendix C

Supporting Documents

1. New York State Law Regarding College/University Housing
2. American College Health Association Position Statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses

## **Appendix A**

### Current Policies

## **Columbia & Affiliate Policies**

Columbia University Medical Center – smoke-free indoor/outdoor

Barnard College – smoke-free indoor/outdoor

Union Theological – smoke-free indoor/outdoor

Jewish Theological – smoke-free indoor; one outdoor designated smoking space

Teachers College – smoke-free indoor; 50 foot outdoor rule (de-facto smoke-free outdoor)

Morningside Campus – smoke-free indoor; inconsistent distance rules (varies by building)

The Morningside Campus has policies and procedures related to tobacco use in the University Administrative Policy Library, the Faculty Handbook, the Guide to Living, and a variety of building and space-specific locations.

## CURRENT HOUSING & DINING POLICY

### **Smoking Policy (Effective 5/22/08)**

Recognizing the demonstrated health and safety risks of smoking, that the majority of undergraduate students do not use tobacco (Columbia University ACHA-NCHA, 2005), the New York State law prohibiting smoking in campus housing, and that many students have expressed a desire for smoke-free living spaces, all Columbia owned and operated undergraduate housing spaces (including, but not limited to, residence halls, fraternity and sorority housing, and other group residential facilities.) are designated as nonsmoking.

Due to the safety and health risks, the University requests that those who choose to smoke do at least 20 feet away from undergraduate housing and dining buildings. Further, marketing, advertising, sampling, sales, or other distribution of tobacco products in or within 20 feet of an undergraduate housing property is prohibited. Smoking devices including, but not limited to, hookahs & water pipes, other pipes, and vaporizers are prohibited in all undergraduate housing property and surrounding area. Enforcement of the policy is the responsibility of all members of the Columbia community and may be reported to any member of the Residential Programs, Housing, or Public Safety staff.

## CURRENT UNIVERSITY SMOKING POLICY (604)

**Category:** OPERATING POLICIES

**Issued:** October 26, 2005

**Responsible Office:** Employee and Labor Relations (870-2810)

The New York City Smoke-Free Air Act of 2002, effective April 1, 2003, substantially limits when and where faculty, officers and support staff employees, students, and visitors may smoke on University premises. The University has adopted the following policy to assure compliance with the law.

### **Policy – Smoking Prohibited**

Smoking is prohibited in any indoor area and outdoor eating places and University vehicles.

Smoking is prohibited in any enclosed work area for faculty, staff or students. Smoking is not permitted in private faculty or staff offices.

Without in any way limiting the general rule, smoking is specifically prohibited in the following areas at the University: auditoriums, classrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, laboratories and storage areas, employee or student lounges, theaters, clubhouses, elevators, hallways, stairwells, restrooms, apartment buildings or residence halls (other than in individual apartments, rooms or suites), gymnasiums, swimming pools, employee or student medical facilities, rooms or areas containing photocopying or other equipment used by employees or students in common, food markets or other retail stores, restaurants, cafeterias and dining facilities (including the Faculty House), and bars or other places in which alcoholic or other beverages are served.

Notwithstanding the above descriptions of locations where smoking is prohibited or permitted, smoking is prohibited in any area with signage indicating that smoking is prohibited.

Employees at the Medical Center Campus and at Harlem Hospital are required to obey New York Presbyterian Hospital and Harlem Hospital restrictions applicable to hospital premises, including posted sidewalk limits at entrances. Violations of the hospitals' policies by University employees will be considered violations of this policy.

This policy will be applied to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Nevis Laboratories unless local laws in those two locations provide more restrictive practices in Rockland and Westchester Counties, respectively.

### **Areas Where Smoking is Permitted**

The restrictions announced in this policy statement do not apply to: private residential rooms or suites in University residence halls or rooms occupied by students in

University apartment buildings, which will be subject to the University residence halls or Institutional Real Estate smoking policies.

- Residence halls policies can be found on: [www.columbia.edu/cu/reshalls](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/reshalls)
- Institutional Real Estate policies can be found on: [www.columbia.edu/cu/ire/roommates.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ire/roommates.html)

Individual apartments, room or suites in University off-campus apartment buildings are exempt from the restriction of this policy.

### **Penalties**

The penalty for violations of the City law is a fine of up to \$2,000. Departments which fail to fulfill their obligation to enforce the law may be subject to this penalty if found guilty by the New York City Department of Health. Individual employees who violate the law may also be subject to this penalty, and will be personally responsible for payment of any fines imposed. Employees may also be subject to disciplinary action by the University for violations of University policy.

### **No Retaliation**

The law and University policy prohibit employer retaliation against employees, or applicants for employment, who exercise, or attempt to exercise, any rights under this policy. Any complaints or grievances claiming retaliation may be processed through the appropriate existing grievance procedures or Ombuds office.

Complaints of retaliation for employees represented by a labor organization must be filed through the appropriate grievance procedure. Officers and non-union staff must file complaints of retaliation with the Office of Employee and Labor Relations, Room 1220, Interchurch Center, Mail Code 7710.

### **Addressing Questions, Problems or Complaints at the Departmental Level**

Each department or School is responsible for publicizing and enforcing the policy. Questions, problems or complaints concerning smoking and this policy should, as much as possible, be resolved by the appropriate dean, vice president, director or department chairperson (or their delegate). Any employee having a question or problem of this nature should present it to his/her immediate supervisor. If the problem is not resolved at that level, the employee should present the matter to the department head, who will resolve the dispute in a manner consistent with this policy. These officers or their delegates will have the responsibility in the first instance of enforcing the policy in areas under their control.

## **Overall Responsibility for Following Up on Violations**

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will have overall responsibility for following up on reported violations throughout the University, and can also provide advice about the University's Smoking Policy. The Office of Employee and Labor Relations and the Medical Center Human Resources Office will assist with issues relating to employee and labor relations and with disciplinary action resulting from violations of the policy. [See: Reporting Violations below]

### **Reporting Violations**

#### **Officers of Administration and Support Staff:**

Witnessed violations of the law and University policy must in the first instance be reported to the employee's manager, departmental administrator, or local human resources officer. In addition, a report should be filed with the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, by the person who witnessed the violation. This office will be responsible for formally notifying the departmental administrator of the reported violation (see attached sample letter).

The manager, departmental administrator, or local human resources officer will be responsible for counseling the employee, in writing, about the requirement that the employee comply with the law and University policy (see attached sample counseling letter). Any employee who thereafter violates the law and University policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with University policy and applicable collective bargaining agreements (see sample letter to attend an investigatory meeting).

#### **Officers of Instruction, Research or Libraries:**

Violations of the law and University policy must be reported to the appropriate Dean, or to the University Librarian, or Vice President with a copy to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, by the person who witnessed the violation.

The Dean or University Librarian will be responsible for investigating the matter and counseling the employee, in writing, about the requirement that the employee comply with the law and University policy. Any employee who thereafter violates the law and University policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Faculty disciplinary procedures.

#### [Related Violation Letters](#)

## FACULTY HANDBOOK SMOKING POLICY

### Appendix G

#### University Policy on Smoking

*In recognition of the severe health risks associated with smoking, and in compliance with applicable laws, Columbia has adopted the following policy that restricts the right to smoke on its premises:*

1. Smoking is prohibited in any indoor area at the University that is open to the public.
2. Smoking is prohibited in any enclosed work area for faculty, staff, or students, except as provided in paragraph 7b, set forth below.
3. Smoking is prohibited in the following outdoor areas at the University:
  - a. Outdoor seating or viewing areas of sports arenas and recreational areas, such as those at Baker Field.
  - b. Outdoor dining areas of restaurants, such as those outside the Uris dining facility.
  - c. Outdoor seating or viewing areas where presentations and performances (such as motion pictures, concerts, theater, lectures, or dances) are to take place.
4. Smoking is prohibited in University vehicles used for shuttle-bus service for University faculty, staff, or students and is prohibited in other University vehicles unless all occupants agree that smoking may be permitted.
5. Without in any way limiting the general rule, smoking is specifically prohibited in the following areas at the University: auditoriums, classrooms, libraries, conference rooms, meeting rooms, day care centers, laboratories, storage areas, employee or student lounges, theaters, clubhouses, elevators, hallways, stairways, rest rooms, apartment buildings (other than in individual apartments, rooms, or suites), seating or viewing areas of sports arenas and recreational areas, gymnasiums, swimming pools, health care facilities, employee or student medical facilities, rooms or areas containing photocopying or other equipment used by employees or students in common, food markets or other retail stores, restaurants, cafeterias and dining facilities (including Faculty House), and bars or other places in which alcoholic or other beverages are served.
6. In any dispute under this policy, the health concerns of the nonsmoking faculty, staff, or students shall be granted priority.
7. The restrictions announced in this policy statement do not apply to:
  - a. Student bedrooms in University residence halls, which will be subject to the University Residence Halls policies with regard to smoking.
  - b. Private enclosed faculty, staff, or student offices that are usually occupied by no more than three persons provided that:
    - i. smoking is prohibited whenever more than three persons are present even if each person present consents to permit smoking;



- ii. when between one and three persons are present, at least one of the persons present is the usual occupant, and each person present consents to permit smoking; and
    - iii. the office door is completely closed while anyone is smoking and remains closed for a reasonable period of time thereafter in order to minimize or eliminate the drift of second-hand smoke into smoke-free areas.
  - c. Individual apartments, rooms, or suites in University off-campus apartment buildings.
- 8. The New York City Smoke Free Air Act of 1995 and University policy prohibit employer retaliatory and adverse personnel action against employees or applicants for employment who exercise, or attempt to exercise, any rights under this policy, which includes the right to refuse to enter a room while anyone is smoking. Any complaints or grievances claiming retaliation may be processed through the appropriate grievance procedures.
- 9. Also under the City Smoke Free Air Act of 1995, the University has an obligation to inform persons smoking in restricted areas that they are doing so. Certain employees have been designated in the various schools and departments as responsible for informing persons who smoke in restricted areas that they are in violation of the law and University policy.
- 10. Questions, problems, or complaints concerning smoking and this Policy should, as much as possible, be resolved by the appropriate dean, vice president, director, or department chairperson (or their delegates). Any employee having a question or problem of this nature should present it to his/her immediate supervisor. If the problem is not resolved at that level, the employee should present the matter to the department head who will resolve the dispute in a manner consistent with the Policy. These officers or their delegates will have the responsibility in the first instances of enforcing the Policy in areas under their control. The Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety will have overall enforcement responsibility throughout the University and can also provide advice about the University's Smoking Policy. Human Resources' Office of Employee and Labor Relations will assist with issues relating to employee and labor relations.

According to reports issued by the Surgeon General, smoking presents risks of certain cancers, coronary artery disease, emphysema, gastric ulcers, stroke, and fetal injury. In general, smokers die from a variety of ailments at a rate twice as high as nonsmokers.

**Smoking cessation programs are sponsored by and held at Columbia throughout the year. Because quitting smoking decreases most risks to health, and because most people who smoke would quit if they could, Columbia urges its affiliates to take advantage of all available programs.**

## UNIVERSITY APARTMENT HOUSING POLICY

### **Smoking**

Smoking is strictly prohibited in designated non-smoking apartment shares, if you wish to smoke tobacco and received a designated smoking accommodation when you applied for housing, you may do so within your own private bedroom with the door closed. You will be responsible for installing and using an air purifier in your room whenever smoke is present, and for making a written request to your building superintendent to install a sweep under your bedroom door.

## **Appendix B**

### Sample Feedback

Please note that these comments are taken directly from e-mail or web form feedback and have not been edited in any manner.

### Faculty

1. Thank you. I look forward to the day when the entire campus is smoke-free. Smoke is a health hazard for everyone, smokers and non-smokers alike, and it is foul. I enthusiastically support all prohibitions on smoking in campus buildings and areas (and I hope the campus expansion currently being planned will have a no-smoking policy from the beginning.)
2. Yes, I support the idea of banning smoking on campus. Thanks for your work.

### Staff

1. While I respect the motives behind this policy, and would love to see our university community smoke less, I'm not comfortable with an attempt to legislate behavior. If the desired outcome is to make people on campus smoke less, I don't see how we can do that any more than we can stop them from eating in Butler, and with considerably less moral authority. Given the already antagonistic attitude that most students on campus have towards the university, I don't see this as being a win-win situation. If the desired outcome, however, is to protect non-smokers, such as myself, from having to walk through a gauntlet of smokers every time we want to enter a building, then perhaps the university can move the sand-filled ashtrays to more isolated smoking areas farther from entrances. So, while I admire and support the motives, I'm not sure I want to see the university legislating open-air behavior.
2. I am very much in support of any policies that prohibit the use of tobacco products on campus. I am very concerned with the exposure of myself and my family to second hand smoke. Smoking outside building entrances is very prevalent on campus, to the point that it is impossible to enter most buildings without having to walk through a cloud of smoke or to look at the vulgar display of cigarette butts on what would otherwise be a very lovely campus. I would like to see policies enforced that prohibit this behavior on campus. Too many people are beginning to take up smoking again, and it's not healthy for them or our community.
3. I very much support the new proposed no-smoking policy within the campus gates. It will make the campus a much more attractive environment for walking and/or sitting down on the steps, etc.

4. I agree the University should limit smoking on campus - but even Barnard provides two outdoor smoking areas on its campus. For safety reasons (especially for students at night), and to help prevent the gates from becoming inundated with crowds of smokers, I hope Morningside can retain 4-5 out-of-the-way outdoor smoking areas, with clearly posted signs and ashtrays.
5. It is about time for Columbia to be a smoke free campus! I fully support the proposals.
6. While I support the goals of this policy, I am skeptical that implementing this smoking ban will affect any substantive change in smoking behavior. This policy change will just annoy smokers and perhaps even intensify smoker's smoking identity, rather than encouraging them to stop smoking. I believe a better approach would be to create a smoking cessation support network for Columbia community members.
7. Prohibiting smoking within campus gates sounds great. Although this is not considered to be a significant problem for me, I would rather not be exposed to smoke at any time.
8. This doesn't seem like a great idea to me. I have never been a smoker, but I sympathize with colleagues who have a tobacco addiction. This policy will make people feel stigmatized for smoking, but I do not believe it will actually be effective in getting people to quit smoking.
9. As I walked to Hamilton Hall the other day someone threw a cigarette butt on the sidewalk right in front of me. I was a beautiful days with a blue sky, warm weather, students relaxing on the grass, even a Jazz Band playing. But that cigarette butt really spoiled the mood. I support the idea of prohibiting smoking within the gated area of the campus.

### Students

1. I believe that students should be aloud to smoke on campus. The fact that students are not allowed to smoke inside dorms makes it a decent compromise between the students who do smoke and those who do not, allowing those who smoke to enjoy their habit outside in an environment that does not affect others. Making the campus an environment which prohibits will not help to make those who do smoke stop, rather it would create a subgroup within Columbia who resent this banning. I believe in an outside environment, students should be allowed to smoke cigarettes.
2. Almost every single day I end up walking behind someone who smokes and receive the smoke through wind. I have a severe reaction to smoke and always end up coughing in such instances. I would be so grateful if smoking is banned within the gates.

3. YES, it's a great idea!! Smokers will hate it, however, I am tired of trying to move ahead of people smoking in front of me, because the smoke they leave behind makes me sick, especially on the way from the gym to home.
4. I am absolutely in favor of this idea! I believe it will cut down on the number of young undergraduate smokers, because it will make it easier for them to quit at a young age when they are not surrounded by smokers all the time. It will also cut down on the number picking up the habit, since it will be more of an inconvenience. Furthermore, it will make Columbia University a cleaner and healthier environment for us all!
5. I think that cutting back in smoking locations around the Columbia University campus is a good idea in the long run. However, I think that the elimination of smoking space should be phased over a year or two. In the meantime, in order to cut down on cut down on cigarette trash, different cigarette bins should be available. The sand-filled urns don't work very well, but the narrow-necked cigarette receptacles are much more accessible (they cut down on effort (students are lazy)) and they cut down on residual smell and smoke. I go to school at GSAPP and students here will continue to smoke; the goal should be focused on lessening the number of smokers and the ease of smoking, because that is what will eventually eliminate smoking on campus.
6. I think it is a great idea! Just yesterday I was thinking what a beautiful day it would be if only I could enjoy it without "enjoying" other people's smoke. Even more importantly I am extremely allergic to cigarette smoke + have become sick just from being in the vicinity of it. I applaud your proposal. Thank you.
7. I used to be a smoker and hate tobacco smoke in closed rooms or indoor areas where it is suffocating and I have to smell it. However, I think that outside it the correct and right place for smoking cigarettes and I have no problem with people smoking within the gated area of Columbia. To make people walk several blocks to have a smoke seems cruel and un-American. We should be free to smoke outside, it really is not that bothersome and trust me, I am the biggest jerk about it, being an ex-smoker.
8. I think this policy is restrictive and unnecessary. Enforce the rules about smoking in front of the dormitories, but this ban is draconian. It will also be difficult to enforce.
9. I think there should be designated smoking sites on-campus away from entrances of buildings and entrances of the campus too, otherwise all the gates

to campus will be congested with smokers and entering campus will consist of maneuvering through a cloud of smoke which defeats the goal we are trying to achieve.

10. I must say that I do not support these changes. I am not a smoker, but I do not support the tyranny of non-smokers over smokers. I would support a change that enforced a distance from buildings, but not a policy change that outright forbade smoking on morningside campus.
11. I do not think a smoke-free policy would have a positive effect on campus. Columbia, through the years, has been a liberal place which values freedom of expression, and taking away the right to smoke from students would go against everything the school stands for. Also, I do not think it would even work. There are too many smokers, and having this type of policy would just anger kids and get people in trouble simply for making a personal, completely legal choice.
12. I believe that smoking should be prohibited on Columbia's campus. Coming from a college town where smoking is prohibited on the entire campus, which includes our downtown area, the amount of smoking right outside of buildings at Columbia was shocking and almost offensive to me at first. My opinion against allowing smoking on campus strengthened when, during the September 11th forum this year, my friend, a severe asthmatic, had a major asthma attack because the people around us, on low steps, were smoking. I think it would be a progressive step for Columbia to ban smoking on campus.
13. I believe that if there are currently restrictions on where people are allowed to smoke on campus then those restrictions should actually be enforced, because as it stands now, I'm not sure if any actually exist. People stand directly outside the doors of residential/classroom buildings and smoke. If there are no restrictions, then at the minimum, there should be some sort of smoke free radius outside the doors of residential buildings.
14. I would strongly support this proposal. I live in John Jay, where many of my classmates decide to sit outside and smoke cigarettes throughout the day. I hate the smell of cigarette smoke and often won't sit outside on benches or near the door because the area is constantly surrounded by smokers. It would also be nice not only to not have to smell/walk thorough the smoke everyday to and from class, but also not see the butts everywhere on the ground. I think the proposal is fair because it's not as if it tells smokers that they have to quit smoking, but rather gives them a dedicated space where they can smoke and not effect everyone around them with their secondhand smoke.

15. Smoking is a personal habit, but it becomes more than one person's problem when people are walking to class with random puffs of smoke in your face. I am not a smoker and I do not want to be disrespected by having a smoker impose themselves and their habit upon me.
16. This revision to the smoke-free areas of campus would be beneficial, especially to those who do not wish to smoke or be affected by secondhand smoke. Personally, I would feel more comfortable getting to class (walking around campus and getting into buildings) not having to inhale secondhand smoke. I am happy this proposal has come up, and I hope it is passed.
17. First of all, I can't believe that Columbia hasn't initiated a regulation stating that one is prohibited from smoking within 20 feet of the entrance to any building. All of my classes are in Avery Hall and, no matter what time of day, there are students smoking directly in front of the door and the smoke continues to filter up and down the stairs. If I were a smoker, I believe that I would be more courteous and not smoke in a doorway, but apparently not everyone feels this way. A smoking ban on campus should have been around years ago, but instead all of us non-smokers had to deal with the harmful effects of second hand smoke as a consequence. Columbia, get it together. Why is this even a question?
18. Please ban smoking inside Morningside campus, as it is too small of a place to have designated smoking areas and students are forced to walk through clouds of smoke on their way to and from classes on a DAILY BASIS. Banning smoking inside the gates would also make the campus itself much more friendly and positively viewed for all those who enter.
19. I'm very against the policy. Despite its health drawbacks, smoking is a way for young adults to form social networks and, more importantly, be involved in harmful behavior that later on provides perspective. I went to CC (04) and am now in SoA (09) and in both instances, smoking within the gates is part of the diverse ecosystem of college life.
20. I think that the new tobacco policy not allowing smoking within the gates is a great idea. There is nothing worse than sitting out on the grass on a nice day and having to smell the smoke from the cigarettes people are smoking as they pass by. Barnard has a smoking policy that seems to work well, with designated smoking areas, so I think something like this for the Columbia campus would be beneficial. Not to mention all the second hand smoke we could avoid.
21. Though I am not a smoker, I would not support a proposal to ban smoking on the Morningside campus.



22. I strongly disagree with restricting smoking on campus. I think it further alienates smokers (which does not generally lead to them quitting) and would make life very difficult for those of us who, unfortunately, need a smoke between classes.
23. A smoking ban on the Morningside campus seems like an obvious step to take given the consensus in the medical community (established decades ago) that smoke, even second-hand, is bad for health. Thank you for this belated but important proposal.
24. I agree that a smokefree campus is an admirable goal. However, I believe it is perhaps an excessive intrusion on those who do smoke (note: I do not). Perhaps strict smoking/smoke free areas to provide buffers around buildings/heavily traveled paths, but excluding limited areas to provide reasonable accommodations for smokers.
25. With the known facts about second hand smoking it's truly a wonder that smoking is allowed anywhere. I strongly agree with the proposal!
26. I think the campus would benefit from a blanket no-smoking policy within the gates. Currently, smokers crowd around building doorways and sometimes in stairwells leading to the smoke infiltrating the entire building. It would encourage better feelings among students if we knew we wouldn't have to choke on smoke to enter/exit a building. My only concern is with enforcement. I see few building staff on weekends, when smokers are more likely to use stairwells. How will the university ensure smokers are obeying the rules? Will fines be imposed?
27. Please only do this if you actually plan to enforce the new policy; otherwise I think it will interfere with current regulations about smoking a certain distance from buildings. That is, I would love it if the whole campus were smoke-free, but if you institute the new smoking policy and don't enforce it, it will be ignored.
28. I completely support banning smoking inside of the gates. I grew up in a non-smoking household and walking through the hazes outside of buildings, especially Butler, really bothers me. It's also awful during the winter when people barely wait until they are outside of a building to light up. I recently saw the results of a study that said that New York City residents, even non-smokers, have a higher level than average of nicotine in their blood. I really would not like going to Columbia to be detrimental to my health, and it would be nice if just the relatively small space inside the gates were smoke-free. Would this ban also include hookah? There would also have to be a good way to enforce this,

possibly a system to give people a warning or two and then fine them through their account balance. There would have to be people on campus with the authority to write people up. Thanks for working on this issue, I really appreciate your efforts to make campus smoke-free.

29. I think the new policy to prohibit smoking within the gated campus is a good idea. It is a shame when students can't enjoy lying in the grass or on the steps of Low on a nice spring day because they are bothered by the smokers around them.

## **Appendix C**

### Supporting Documents

1. New York State Law Regarding College/University Housing
2. American College Health Association Position Statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses

## NEW YORK STATE LAW REGARDING COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY HOUSING

**BILL NUMBER:** A538A

**TITLE OF BILL:** An act to amend the public health law, in relation to prohibiting smoking in dormitories, residence halls, and other group residential facilities

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:** To safeguard the health and welfare of nonsmoking residents by prohibiting smoking in dormitories, residence halls and other residential facilities of public and private colleges, universities and other educational and vocational institutions

**SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:** Section 1: amends Subdivision 13 of Section 1399-0 of the public health law, as amended by chapter 13 of the laws of 2003, by adding language to prohibit smoking in dormitories, residence halls, and other group residential facilities that are owned or operated by colleges, universities and other educational and vocational institutions. An exemption is provided, within their own housing unit, for those who are not enrolled as undergraduate students and live in off-campus housing that is owned by such colleges, universities and other educational and vocational institutions.

Section 2 defines the effective date as the fifteenth of August next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Currently, smoking in dormitories on many campuses is not prohibited, as dormitories are not considered public work places but rather they are considered residential buildings. Prohibiting smoking in dormitories will eliminate the adverse health effects of second-hand smoke on nonsmokers, mitigate the risk of fire and reduce the number of college students that become regular smokers.

Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is a proven cause of disease and death in exposed nonsmokers and is estimated to be the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. ETS causes lung cancer and cancer of the nasal sinus. It both causes and exacerbates other respiratory diseases, including asthma. It has been identified as a cause of cardiovascular disease and death from heart attack. In college residence halls, smoking in one part of a dormitory causes smoke to seep into other parts of the building, chronically exposing nonsmokers to ETS.

Nationwide, a large percent of colleges, including the University of Vermont, the University of Rhode Island and Harvard University have banned smoking in dormitories. In New York State, Syracuse University, Hofstra, SUNY Buffalo and SUNY at Old Westbury have banned smoking in dormitories as well. As of September 2007, all SUNY schools will have smoke-free dormitories. However, this legislation is important because there are many private colleges in New York State that have not banned smoking in their residence halls. Some private colleges merely offer students the option of residing in smoke-free dormitories. However, demand often exceeds the supply of

available rooms. Consequently, many nonsmokers requesting smoke free rooms are relegated to residence halls where smoking occurs.

Smoking in residence halls also increases the risk of accidental fires. In July 2000, the Governor's Task Force on Campus Fire Safety noted that statewide campuses reported an average of more than 300 fires per year. Approximately 160 annually were serious enough to require reporting to local fire departments. There were two fatal residential hall fires in New York State in the past ten years. While the Task Force did not present analysis of the cause of reported dormitory fires, unattended cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal home fires, and undoubtedly play a major role in dormitory fires.

In addition, the rate of smoking among college students has increased sharply in the past decade percent. Peer pressure, as well as tobacco industry marketing strategies targeting college students, is undoubtedly a major cause of this increased smoking. A recent study by Harvard University found that students entering college as nonsmokers are 40 percent less likely to take up smoking when they live in smoke-free dorms.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: A.2765, 2003 reported out of health, referred to codes. In 2004, referred to health. Same as S.2172. A.420-B, 2005 passed assembly and 2006 ordered to third reading. Same as S.2172-A.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall take effect on the fifteenth of August next succeeding the date on which it shall have become law.

SEPTEMBER 2009

## ACHA Guidelines

# Position Statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses

The American College Health Association (ACHA) acknowledges and supports the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active and/or passive, is a significant health hazard. ACHA further recognizes that environmental tobacco smoke has been classified as a Class-A carcinogen and that there is no safe level of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), a recognized toxic air contaminant. In light of these health risks, ACHA has adopted a NO TOBACCO USE policy and encourages colleges and universities to be diligent in their efforts to achieve a 100% indoor and outdoor campus-wide tobacco-free environment. *This position statement reflects the viewpoint of ACHA and serves only as a guide\** to assist colleges and universities with evaluating progress toward becoming or maintaining tobacco-free living and learning environments that support the achievement of personal and academic goals.

ACHA joins with other professional health associations in promoting tobacco-free environments. According to the ACHA-National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) conducted in fall 2008, 83% of college students described themselves as non-smokers (never smoked or have not smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days); 90% reported being non-smokers for hookah/water pipes (never used or have not used in the last 30 days); and 97% described themselves as non-users of smokeless tobacco (never used or have not used in the last 30 days). ACHA supports the health goals of the U.S. Public Health Service to reduce the proportion of adults who smoke to below 12% by the year 2010 and to positively influence America's college students to help them remain or become

\* Compliance with the elements of this position statement is not and cannot be mandated by ACHA; nor is compliance a condition for institutional membership in ACHA.


tobacco-free. Additionally, ACHA actively supports the Healthy Campus 2010 goals to reduce cigarette smoking by college students to below 10.5% and smokeless tobacco use to below 1.0% by the year 2010.

Efforts to promote tobacco-free environments have led to substantial reductions in the number of people who smoke, the amount of tobacco products consumed, and the number of people exposed to environmental tobacco hazards. ACHA acknowledges that achieving a tobacco-free environment requires strong leadership and support from all members of the college/university community. Because the improvements to health can be so significant, ACHA recommends the following positions be taken to address policy, prevention, and cessation as it pertains to tobacco issues:

1. Develop a strongly worded tobacco policy that reflects the best practices in tobacco prevention, cessation, and control. These include the following recommendations:
  - a. Tobacco is defined as all tobacco-derived or containing products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes (clove, bidis, kreteks), cigars and cigarillos, hookah-smoked products, and oral tobacco (spit and spitless, smokeless, chew, snuff).
  - b. Tobacco use is prohibited on all college and university grounds, college/university owned or leased properties, and in campus-owned, leased, or rented vehicles.
  - c. All tobacco industry promotions, advertising, marketing, and distribution are prohibited on campus properties.
  - d. The sale of tobacco products and tobacco-related merchandise (including logo containing items) is prohibited on all

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- university property and at university-sponsored events, regardless of the operating vendor.
- e. The distribution or sampling of tobacco and associated products is prohibited on all university owned or leased property and at university-sponsored events, regardless of the venue.
  - f. Tobacco industry and related company sponsorship of athletic events and athletes is prohibited.
  - g. The college/university does not permit tobacco companies on campus to conduct student recruitment or employment activities.
  - h. The college/university does not accept any direct or indirect funding from tobacco companies.
  - i. The campus provides and/or promotes cessation services/resources for all members of the college/university community.
2. Inform all members of the campus community by widely distributing the campus tobacco policy on an annual basis. The tobacco policy is clearly posted in employee and student handbooks, on the college/university website, and in other relevant publications. Key components of the policy are also shared with parents, alumni/ae, and visitors. The general policy should be included in prospective student materials in both printed and electronic formats.
  3. Offer and promote prevention and education initiatives that actively support non-use and address the risks of all forms of tobacco use.
  4. Offer and promote programs and services that include practical, evidence-based approaches to end tobacco use, including screenings through health and counseling services, free/reduced-cost tobacco-cessation counseling, free/reduced-cost nicotine replacement therapy, and medication options on campus.
  5. Advocate for the inclusion of tobacco use cessation products, medications, and services in student health insurance plans.
  6. Provide a comprehensive marketing and signage effort to ensure that all college/university visitors, vendors, guests, and others arriving on property owned or leased by the institution are aware of the tobacco-free policy.
  7. Plan, maintain, and support effective and timely implementation, administration, and consistent enforcement of all college/university tobacco-related policies, rules, regulations, and practices. Provide a well-publicized reporting system for violations.
  8. Collaborate with local, state, and national public health entities and tobacco prevention and control public, private, and national non-profit tobacco-related organizations in support of maintaining a healthy tobacco-free environment.
  9. Develop and maintain a tobacco task force on campus to identify and address needs and concerns related to tobacco policy, compliance, enforcement, and cessation. Key individuals and departments to invite/include:
    - a. Undergraduate and graduate students (particularly from student-elected/representative organizations)
    - b. Health and counseling center professionals
    - c. Faculty (including faculty senate or other faculty governing bodies)
    - d. Residence life/housing
    - e. Judicial affairs
    - f. Campus safety/police
    - g. Human resources
    - h. Neighborhood liaisons
    - i. Facilities
    - j. Other important stakeholders specific to your campus

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