



Faculty Senate

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TO: Joel Defebaugh, ASUW President and Cheri Frank, Staff Senate President

FROM: Warrie J. Means, Faculty Senate Chair

RE: Faculty Senate actions related to UW Smoking Policy

DATE: May 1, 2012

On September 13, 2011, the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Senate passed Resolution #2321 – ASUW Support of Smoke-Free Campus. On November 09, 2011 the UW Staff Senate passed resolution #201 – Requested Revision to UW Regulation 2-180. As a result of these actions, the UW Faculty Senate began addressing the issue of smoking on campus. Following is a synopsis of Faculty Senate activities related to this issue.

- September 26, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting – Megan Degenfelder, ASUW President and Noah Hull, ASUW AG&NR College Senator, Chair ASUW Elections Committee reported that the ASUW Senate passed a resolution for a smoke-free campus.
- October 17, 2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting – UW smoking policy was discussed.
- October 31, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting – Cheri Frank, Staff Senate President, reported that they were conducting a smoking survey among staff and would be drafting a resolution based upon its results.
- November 21, 2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting – UW smoking policy was discussed.
- November 28, 2011 Faculty Senate meeting – Cheri Frank, Staff Senate President, reported that a University-wide staff survey had been completed and that about half of the responding staff were opposed to a smoking ban and about half were in favor. Staff Senate drafted a resolution, with the primary difference from existing policy being that no smoking should be allowed within 15 feet from a campus building's entrance.
- January 30, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting – Faculty Senate Chair Warrie Means indicated that Faculty Senators would be asked to poll their constituents regarding possible changes in campus smoking policy.
- February 13, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting – UW smoking policy options were discussed.
- February 20, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting – UW smoking policy options were discussed, data collection was discussed.
- February 27, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting – Chair Means reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee outlined 4 actions the Faculty Senate could choose in regards to UW campus smoking policy (*See email attachment*). Senators will be asked to poll their constituents regarding possible changes in campus smoking regulations and the Executive Committee will use the information to decide further action. A healthy discussion of the smoking issue followed. The 4 actions outlined were:
 - Support current smoking regulations
 - Support UW Staff Senate modified regulations
 - Draft and support more stringent regulations than proposed by Staff Senate, but not a University-wide smoking ban
 - Support ASUW Senate Resolution #2321: ASUW Support of Smoke-Free Campus
- March 5, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting – UW smoking policy was discussed.
- March 26, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting – Chair Means reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee discussed and developed the smoking on campus policy data collection memo.
- April 02, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting –smoking policy data was distributed.

- April 16, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting –updated smoking policy data was distributed.
- April 23, 2012 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting – updated smoking policy data was redistributed and discussed. Chair Means was directed to write a memo to the ASUW and Staff Senate leadership advising that the Faculty Senate suspends further action at this time.
- April 30, 2012 - Faculty Senate meeting – Chair Means advised Faculty Senators that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee discussed updated smoking policy data (*see email attachment*), Senator input, and other factors. The Committee decided to suspend further action at this time, essentially supporting no changes to the current policy.

To summarize Faculty Senate activity on the smoking policy issue:

- 1) The Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee spent a significant amount of time on this issue.
- 2) We had 241 faculty respond, which is a very good data set (about 34% response of total faculty/academic professionals.) As such, our numbers are actually very representative.
- 3) If we consider those who chose not to respond (for a variety of reported reasons) then we have about a 50% response rate.
- 4) In the political process, the non-responders often fit into the status quo category, and as such, by default, could be considered in the Option 1 category. This is to say, they are not offering input with regards to changing the current policy and therefore by default support (by non-action) the current policy. Keeping that factor in mind, about 51% of the faculty supports keeping the policy where it is.
- 5) Indeed, of those actual responses, nearly 80% (combining those choosing options 1, 2 and 3) of respondents do not support a smoking ban.
- 6) Regarding the staff proposal (15 feet from doors/windows), that actually received the largest percentage of support for those not supporting a ban, we must be very careful when we think about what unintended consequences might be. Fifteen feet is somewhat arbitrary. Secondly, it may not be practical in many instances due to wind, etc. As such, a 15-foot rule may cause as many problems as it solves.
- 7) Faculty Senators are quite cognizant of the fact that some, although a minority, do smoke. Faculty Senators are reluctant to impose yet more restrictions on smokers.

Currently, the UW Faculty Senate does not support any changes to UW Regulation 2-180 – Regulated Smoking.