First Reading: November 11, 2014

Second Reading: November 18, 2014

Pass:

Other:

Resolution 11-14-F Resolution to Support a Smoke Free Campus

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support making WKU a smoke free campus in order to promote health, retention, and the image of the university.

WHEREAS: With a new smoke free policy in place there would be well marketed designated smoking areas placed away from highly trafficked areas on campus, in moving vehicles, and other spots deemed necessary by the university and,

WHEREAS: This policy would not limit the use of other tobacco products or e-cigs,

WHEREAS: The policy would be enforced through a student ambassador program similar to TFTA which experienced a 68% enforcement success rate and a 25% decrease in the amount of tobacco litter on campus, and

WHEREAS: According to the 2014 WKU Fact Book the current policy allows 85% of non-smoking students to be exposed to harmful second hand smoke which has been proven to cause numerous severe medical and health problems, and

WHEREAS: It has been ruled that there is no constitutional right to the freedom to smoke, and

WHEREAS: Smoking has a statistically significant negative effect on GPA and retention, and

WHEREAS: Research shows that 70% of smokers want to quit and by coupling a smoke free policy with quit support from the Human Resources Department it will not only promote better health of non-smoking students but has the potential to help smokers reach their personal health goals to quit, and

WHEREAS: Evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke free policies do not have an adverse economic impact, and

WHEREAS: A similar policy at EKU saved the university over $900,000 a year in employee insurance plans to cover preventable health conditions associated with smoking, and

WHEREAS: Within Kentucky there are already 18 smoke free campuses including the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University supports a smoke free campus to promote health, retention and the image of the university.

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SPONSOR: Campus Improvements

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