

The WKU Staff Council Smoking Committee has been tasked with resolving the issue of Smoking on campus and whether we as a whole believe that WKU could become a "Tobacco Free" University. This has been a lengthy and difficult process with many changes in the institutional climate.

In May of 2013 The Staff Council Smoking Committee (at that time) met with members of WKU EHS to address the issue of the rights of Non-Smokers and submitted the following plan for consideration:

General Summary:

The Designated Smoking Area Committee (Melvin, Jason, Keith) proposes to Staff Council that we reach out to Student Government Association (SGA), Housing Residence Life (HRL) and Faculty Senate and see if we can find some common ground for establishing a "limited tobacco use" environment with a few designated smoking areas, with policies similar to Purdue's: "Purdue's smoke-free policy is designed to support a healthy campus and limit exposure to secondhand smoke, which has been determined unsafe at any level according to the EPA. As of July 1, 2010, smoking will no longer be permitted on campus except in a limited number of designated areas", or the University of Memphis: "The U of M is a Limited Tobacco-Use Campus and the use of tobacco will not be permitted except as specifically stated under this policy." WKU could start with 39 designated areas (to accommodate our "black torpedo" urns) and supplement that with existing "concrete urns" in areas such as the stadium. **The goal would be to consolidate areas and reduce that number in the next five years.**

Due to Staff Council turn over, the Smoking Committee and resolutions were delayed. This past Fall, we were hopeful the Commonwealth of Kentucky would make the decision for the WKU campus and force us to become tobacco free. Yet, it was determined; WKU does not fall under the state mandate. Consequently, we return to the original dilemma, taking all positions into account.

Numerous emails and conversation have been brought to the attention of Staff Council concerning WKU becoming a smoke free campus, however based on various factors, we do not consider it feasible at this time. Many hours of leg work and research were dedicated to the goal of a 5-year planned reduction in smoking areas and at this time we would like to present the following plan to SGA, HRL and Faculty Senate:

- 1) Set a five year goal to become a "Limited Tobacco Use Campus".
- 2) Reduce the number of smoking *areas* over the next five years significantly to more clearly defined "zones".
- 3) In conjunction with this reduction in smoking *areas*, provide smoking shelters in the zones to avoid the use of other shelter in inclement weather.
- 4) Continuously educate all employees and students of the five year goal and the "Limited Smoking Policy" and that WKU has provided these zones and shelters to accommodate our tobacco using community members. Use positive reinforcement and incentives for our WKU Community to keep their zone clean.

Respectfully submitted
December 3, 2014