First Reading: January 27, 2015

Second Reading: February 3, 2015

Pass: Yes; 13-11

Other:

Resolution 1-15-S Resolution to Support a Limited Smoking Campus

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to concur with the Staff Council and support making WKU a limited smoking campus similar to Purdue University and the University of Memphis in order to promote health, retention, and the image of the university.

WHEREAS: WKU would begin by limiting tobacco use to 39 designated areas to accommodate our existing black urns and may supplement that with a few additional concrete urns and shelters in areas such as the stadium, and

WHEREAS: The Administrative Council will design a plan in which the amount of designated areas will gradually be reduced phasing out smoking over the next three years, and

WHEREAS: This policy would not limit the use of other tobacco products or electronic cigarettes, and

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

WHEREAS: The current policy allows 85 percent 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: Research shows that 70 percent 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 Eastern Kentucky University saved the university over $900,000.00 a year in employee insurance plans to cover preventable health conditions associated with smoking, and

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

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University concur with the Staff Council and support making WKU a limited smoking campus similar to Purdue University and the University of Memphis, in order to promote health, retention, and the image of the university, and

THEREFORE: Be it further resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University opposes a campus-wide smoking ban at this time.

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*\*All statistics and information provided is courtesy of the NCHA Smoking Statistics at Western Kentucky University as of 2012*

*And the Western Kentucky University Chapter of the Kentucky Public Health Association.*