



AGENDA

Campus Welfare Committee

March 7, 2017

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Day Hall 316

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Review of Semester Priorities**
- III. Tobacco-Free Campus Referendum**
 - 1. CWC Recommendation from Fall 2016
 - 2. Referendum Process Outline
 - 3. Educational Campaign Design
- IV. Affirming Transgender Rights at Cornell**
 - 1. [SA Resolution 30](#) and [Appendix](#)
- V. Ithaca Plan Endorsement Follow-Up**
 - 1. [UA Resolution 3](#) – Returned by President
- VI. Questions**
- VII. Adjournment**



RECOMMENDATION RE: TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVE

Background

The topic of becoming a tobacco-free campus was referred to the UA Campus Welfare Committee on September 20, 2016. The Committee sought to gather information about the feasibility, the attitude of the campus community, and impact of becoming a tobacco-free campus, and to make a recommendation to the voting membership of the University Assembly.

The Committee met three times over the course of the fall semester: September 27th, October 25th, and November 8th, each time inviting key stakeholders and policy advisors. Guests included representatives from Tompkins County, Gannett Health Services (Cornell Health), Cornell Wellness, and Environmental Health and Safety. All Committee minutes and agendas are posted online at: dashboard.assembly.cornell.edu.

The Committee gathered information from a number of sources that spanned a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to:

- Definitions of “smoke-free” vs. “tobacco-free”
- Policies and challenges of other colleges and universities
- Policies of Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca
- Insurance coverage of cessation programs and medication
- Sample educational materials

Challenges

One of the challenges that the Committee identified was the lack of information around smoking behavior at Cornell. While there was a survey conducted in fall 2015 that included questions about tobacco use, it was sent only to undergraduate students. There is currently no data from employees (faculty and staff) or graduate and professional students.

Recommendation

Based on the information gathered and the discussions held, the Committee focused on four possible options for addressing tobacco use on-campus:

1. Passing legislation to become a tobacco-free campus (with a phased implementation);
2. Passing legislation to designate smoking areas across campus;
3. Revising the current policy to extend the 25ft minimum;
4. Hold a campus-wide referendum on the matter.

After careful consideration of each of the outlined options, the Committee voted to recommend a campus-wide referendum to be held in spring 2017. The Committee felt that the question of whether or not to become a tobacco-free campus would be most appropriately answered by the campus community, recognizing differences between each of the constituent groups. This is especially important given that there is limited information about smoking behavior on campus. The

Committee also felt the referendum would be an avenue to begin a robust dialogue about tobacco use and campus wellness initiatives.

The Committee proposes the following language for the referendum:

“Should Cornell launch a two-year initiative to become tobacco-free? The goal is to create a healthier university community and foster a campus culture in which tobacco users are supported in their efforts to adapt or quit through awareness events, smoking cessation support programs, and community engagement.”

Prior to a referendum, the Committee recommends that the voting members of the UA determine the appropriate procedures to be used to conduct a referendum and codify them in the governing documents of the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Ulysses J. Smith, Employee, Chair, Campus Welfare Committee