



MINUTES

Campus Welfare Committee

October 25, 2016

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Day Hall B12

I. Call to Order

1. Committee members in attendance: Ellis Loew, Matt Indimine, Joseph Anderson, Linda Copman, Ulysses Smith, Natalie Hofmeister, Jeramy Kruser

II. Discussion of the Ithaca Plan

1. Review of Content

- i. Mayor Myrick is bringing the Ithaca Plan to local government to raise awareness around drug addiction
- ii. Linda Copman attended compelling presentation from Mayor Myrick, and given that Cornell is involved with this community and with drug issues, we would like to formally support this plan.
- iii. Linda drafted a resolution to endorse the Ithaca Plan, affirming its approach to dealing with responsible drug use.

2. Drafting a resolution in support: next steps

- i. What would a partnership between Cornell and the local Ithaca government look like? Who would be involved?
- ii. Who is the approving governmental body for this agreement?
- iii. Linda is working on the draft of this resolution, and we will discuss wording at the next meeting.
- iv. Once the resolution is finalized, it will be introduced to the UA and SA. In the introduction to assemblies, we should highlight student involvement in drugs, since this is why Cornell's involvement is imperative.

III. Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative

1. Review of Educational Materials

- i. These materials will be essential in any advertising campaign. There are also other materials available for use in advertising.
- ii. Tobacco has social and economic costs.

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1. Social: We still need to raise awareness around health consequences of smoking, especially as it relates to secondhand smoke.
2. Economic: Taxpayers fund much of the medical care that smokers receive. The Master Settlement Agreement in 1998 cost taxpayers \$225 billion when 48 states sued the tobacco industry to recoup Medicaid costs for providing care for people sick from smoking. This is a broad public health issue that influences individual health plans.
- iii. See meeting packet for materials.

2. Review of Insurance Materials

- i. See meeting packet for details on what insurance covers in terms of cessation programs and medication.
- ii. Difference in cost between endowed and contract colleges will need to be reconciled.

3. Discussion of options

- i. The four options discussed at the September 27 meeting were discussed.
 1. Tobacco-free (with a phased implementation)
 2. Having designated smoking areas across campus
 3. Extending the current 25ft minimum in the policy
 4. Campus-wide Referendum
- ii. Option 3: Overall consensus that increasing the distance would not do much. Members expressed concern that moving smokers further away will simply concentrate them in adjacent properties (e.g., cemeteries, across the street). These consequences for our community are not acceptable.
- iii. Option 2: Enforcing smoking policy is difficult. We can only ask smokers if they are aware that this area is a non-smoking area. Usually, when responding to a call, smokers have already left. This solution does not seem particularly feasible.

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- iv. Option 1: Top-down implementation of tobacco-free campus does not check in with constituents, and this option is not ideal. In addition, banning results in littering and smoking on perimeter areas.
- v. Option 4: A referendum appears to be the best option. This referendum should focus on an educational campaign that emphasizes wellness. This option will avoid alienating people with addiction, which is more sympathetic.
- vi. Remaining concerns:
 - 1. There has been no smoking survey in particular. Any campaign should include a survey to determine tobacco usage on campus.
 - 2. Be careful with language. How not to criminalize drug usage? We want to help people stop being addicted.
 - 3. Need buy-in from constituency focusing on how we can work together to get to where we want to be.
 - 4. Dealing with enforcement in the meantime. Prohibition of smoking is included in the campus code, but highlighting this aspect may help.

4. Plan for Referendum

- i. Education campaign around wellness
 - 1. Need to define milestones and educational steps in this campaign.
 - 2. Consider wellness/health accommodations.
- ii. How to implement tobacco-free policy
 - 1. Any implementation should be along, careful process phased in different areas (e.g., starting in Central campus and then broadening).
 - 2. Timing of implementation is also important. Any policy change should go into effect during the academic year (not in August where the change could be a surprise). 1st year should be largely educational.

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3. Must involve every stakeholder on campus. Note that Cornell Tech and 19 off campus locations will be included under this policy, but Weill is separate.

iii. Language:

1. We should be careful with specifying tobacco vs. smoke.

5. **DDD (Deadlines, Dates, Deliverables)**

- i. Consensus among voting members to proceed with a referendum that focuses on a “wellness program” to help people become tobacco-free.
 1. Use CUNY as a guide to referendum, as they have recently implemented a similar process.
- ii. For the next meeting:
 1. Wording of this referendum
 2. What should the educational component be?
 3. How will other assemblies be involved?
 4. Ted Schiele will draft a written document of the referendum to discuss.

IV. Questions

V. Adjournment

1. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8th at 1pm in Day Hall 316**

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