Smoking Ban Implementation Committee

Minutes for meeting held, Feb. 9, from 11‐noon, 303 Admin.

Members: Mike Smith, Jim Uhlir, Janice Lawrence‐Ramaeker, Phil Lyons, Phil Rizzo, Neal Peterson, John Achter, Doug Mell, Ted Harris, Dennis Shaw, Joan Thomas

Present: Mike Smith, Jim Uhlir, Janice Lawrence‐Ramaeker, Phil Lyons, Phil Rizzo, Neal Peterson, John Achter, Doug Mell, Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen

Absent: J. Helms

Meeting opened with charge from Chancellor Sorensen. The committee is charged with creating a process to educate and communicate to campus the smoking ban which will be implemented fall 2010. CWS explained that ban will be self‐enforcing to a large extent. Peer pressure will be a factor in compliance.

The group discussed ban rationale – concern for safety of campus community, students as well as faculty and staff – and whether it is for smoking or tobacco free. Technically it covers the use of all tobacco products but the “enforcement” may only focus on smoking.

P. Rizzo brought up the topic of electric cigarettes. The group decided that this category would not be addressed in the ban.

D. Mell pointed out that if self‐enforcement fails, supervisors may be responsible to “remind/enforce” individuals of university policies. Citations will not be given for infringement.

P. Lyons brought up issues which will occur for RA’s in and outside of residence halls. He also mentioned that the responsibility to “enforce” should not be placed on staff and SLS.

D. Mell stressed that the entire university community will hold its members accountable to the new regulation. He cited the experience of Mayo Clinic’s non‐smoking policy. The initial six months were the most difficult but subsequent months were easier.

J. Achter mentioned that the smoking ban will become part of the university’s social norms and campus culture. It may be easier for entering freshmen who have never known the campus in any other way. Also the thought was that because some freshmen take up smoking in college, the ban may act as a deterrent.

D. Mell said that the issue will be discussed at the faculty senate meeting today. Someone from the senate will be on the committee. CWS would like two campus forums to be held. They will be planned for sometime in March. The forums will cover implementation of the ban not whether it will occur.

N. Peterson mentioned the likelihood of students telling other students to stop smoking. He doesn’t see it as being realistic.

D. Mell reminded all that the students voted for the ban.
As a group, a list of issues was generated. D. Mell will divide them up and assign them to members of the committee. The issues’ list includes:

- Campus boundaries, need to outline
- Stipulate restriction, smoking or all tobacco use
- Communicate with local community
- Offer of smoking cessation programs to campus smokers
- Campus signage – suggestion by M. Smith of putting signs in trash receptacles indicating Stout is a non-smoking campus.
- Marketing – establishing non-smoking as a Stout community social norm; include info in freshman orientation.
- Legal issues
- Employee union rules
- Staff enforcement
- Student/ Residence Hall enforcement
- Campus communication and education – add to campus maps
- Increased litter and trash when smoking receptacles are removed

Meetings will be held approximately two weeks apart. Committee members will be notified of the next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.