Tobacco ban implementation committee

Minutes: April 22, 2010; 3 p.m. Provost’s Conference room

Present: Mike Smith, Doug Mell, Dennis Shaw, Jim Uhlir, Joel Helms, Janice Lawrence-Ramaeker, Ted Harris, John Achter, Joan Thomas, Neal Peterson
Absent: Phil Rizzo, Phil Lyons

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting, April 1.

Committee discussed the approved SSA referendum to ban all tobacco products on campus.

N. Peterson said that another referendum may be held. Questions remain whether smokeless tobacco should be included in ban.

J. Thomas expressed thought that despite the referendum passing, only approximately 800 students voted out of a total of 8,000.

D. Mell said that CWS wanted the ban to become official Jan. 1, 2011.

Most of the committee expressed opinion that starting midyear would be problematic. Most agreed that despite the problems getting signage, the tobacco-free status should be implemented for fall 2010, specifically Sept. 1, 2010.

J. Lawrence-Ramaeker sees difficulty in getting everything in place by fall 2010 but sees problems changing midstream and thinks the delay sends a conflicting message to campus.

J. Helms thinks fall 2010 is best; the ban has already been discussed; it isn’t a new idea for the campus community.

T. Harris supports ban in place fall 2010 although understands issues involved.

N. Peterson thinks best for students even if official signage isn’t in place and if ban can’t be in place by fall 2010, the university should wait till fall 2011.

M. Smith expressed thought that winter is problematic for implementing ban.

D. Shaw expressed concern that Senate of Academic Staff has not had time to discuss policy language for implementation in fall 2010: smoking ban vs. tobacco ban.

T. Harris said that Faculty Senate knows and understands the ban; doesn’t think that language is a problem.

D. Mell said he will speak to CWS about implementing the ban for fall 2010. He thinks that at least paper signage e.g. posters, could be in place right away. After speaking with CWS, he will inform the committee of decision.

A follow-up meeting will be planned depending on implementation decision.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.