



Proposed Motion: “Approve proposed language for the Smoke-Free Campus Referendum.”

Sponsor: AS VP for Student Life, Annie Gordon

Persons of Contact: AS VP for Student Life, Annie Gordon

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Background & Context:

There are currently more than 1,500 smoke free campuses and more than 1,000 tobacco free campuses nationwide. More locally, examples of smoke free campuses can be seen in Washington State University and Everett Community College. Going smoke free is a national trend rising to address the inherent risks of smoking and the inhalation of second hand smoke. In November, 2011, the American College Health Association put out a position statement on Tobacco on College and University Campuses strongly in support of tobacco-free learning environments. The concept of a smoke free campus has been discussed at length for multiple years, and was brought as a referendum that passed through the Associated Students of Western Washington University in 2014 with an 8.8% voter turnout and 56% voting in favor. Western Washington University’s Central Health and Safety Committee has continued the discussion of a multi-year implementation that would include a 2 year interim period for marketing, increased resources, educational opportunities, and awareness. Before moving forward with this implementation, the committee feels tasked with assessing current student feedback, in addition to that of faculty and administration, and this referendum serves that purpose. If support is shown, the committee is interested in embarking on the implementation period and hopes to engage long term with the campus community in this educational opportunity. It should be stated that this would be implemented as an opportunity for education, not punishment. The committee does not see reason for high enforcement tactics, but rather hopes to address a multi-year culture shift around the use of tobacco on a college campus, while engaging in conversations of accessibility and equity.

Summary of Proposal:

Proposed Referendum Language:

“Shall the Associated Students of Western Washington University support the multi-year implementation of Western Washington University as a smoke-free campus?”

