

Joint Resolution with SFA Faculty Senate to Establish SFA as a Tobacco Free Campus

Whereas: The 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revealed that young adults aged 18 to 25 had the highest rate of current use of tobacco products.

Whereas: In Texas, 34% of college students reported they used tobacco in the past year and 22% reported they used tobacco in the past month, according to the 2013 Texas Survey of Substance Use Among College Students.

Whereas: Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Texas. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 28,000 smokers die from tobacco-related diseases each year in Texas, and an estimated 498,000 kids under age 18 who are alive now in Texas will eventually die prematurely due to smoking.

Whereas: Non-smokers are harmed by tobacco as well because secondhand smoke increases the risk of cancers and other tobacco-related diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, since 1964, 2,500,000 nonsmokers in the U.S. have died from health problems caused by exposure to secondhand smoke.

Whereas: Failing to establish a tobacco free workplace has affected the university's ability to qualify for grant funding. For example, SFA is ineligible to apply for grants through the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

Whereas: The American Cancer Society reports that chewing tobacco and using smokeless tobacco can result in mouth, cheek and gum cancer, cancer of the esophagus, pancreatic cancer and possible increase in risk of heart disease, heart attacks, and stroke.

Whereas: E-cigarettes do not appear to offer a safe alternative to smoking. The American Lung Association reported that in 2009, the FDA conducted lab tests and found detectable levels of toxic cancer-causing chemicals, including an ingredient used in antifreeze, in two leading brands of e-cigarettes and 18 various cartridges.

Whereas: Current university policy 13.21 prohibits smoking in SFA facilities or within 20 feet of any entrance to a building or facility, but this policy does not appear to deter tobacco-use among students or employees.

Whereas: Colleges and universities can improve the health of students and campus communities while also saving money on tobacco-related costs by implementing a comprehensive tobacco-free campus policy.

Let it be Resolved: That SFA establish a tobacco free campus policy.

Let it be Further Resolved: That the SFA Employee Wellness Advisory Board be charged with surveying the campus community to gauge support for a Tobacco-Free Campus policy, research of policy options

and proposing appropriate policy language, recommendation of an implementation timeline, and development of information regarding tobacco use cessation programs that might be made available to employees and students.

Written and submitted by Caitlin Bohannon, College of Education Senator and Civil Affairs Chair

SFA Student Government Association