

## **Proposal for a Smoke-Free USC**

WHEREAS, cigarette use and exposure to secondhand smoke are the leading preventable causes of death in the United States, killing more than 480,000 Americans each year, which is more than the combined death toll of illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, firearm-related incidents, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and establishing smoke-free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found secondhand tobacco smoke to be a risk to public health and has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class of carcinogen;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, nearly one in ten college students in America—that is, 4,300 current Trojan students—will die prematurely from tobacco use;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, students entering college as non-smokers have been shown to be 40% less likely to become smokers when they live in a smoke-free environment;<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of heart disease by 25% to 30% and the risk of lung cancer risk by 20% to 30%;<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, smoking imposes additional burdens on the University as a whole, including fire damage, extra cleaning and maintenance, and the costs of employee and student absenteeism and medical treatment;

WHEREAS, 20% of social smokers become daily smokers over the course of a four-year college period;<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2016, there are at least 1,475 100% smoke-free campuses. Of these, 1,128 are 100% tobacco-free, and 802 prohibit the use of e-cigarettes anywhere on campus;<sup>7</sup>

WHEREAS, nine of the PAC 12 schools are already smoke-free or tobacco-free campuses;

WHEREAS, all ten University of California campuses are 100% tobacco-free;<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General (2014)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-designates-passive-smoking-class-or-known-human-carcinogen>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/youth\\_data/tobacco\\_use/](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/)

<sup>4</sup> <http://archive.sph.harvard.edu/press-releases/archives/2001-releases/press03222001.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/tobacco/second-hand-smoke-fact-sheet>

<sup>6</sup> [https://tobaccofree.ucr.edu/instructional\\_resources/pdf/tobacco\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://tobaccofree.ucr.edu/instructional_resources/pdf/tobacco_fact_sheet.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://no-smoke.org/pdf/smokefreecollegesuniversities.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ucop.edu/risk-services/loss-prevention-control/uc-smoke-tobacco-free.html>

WHEREAS, a peer-reviewed study published in 2015 found that adopting a 100% tobacco-free policy had no impact on student enrollment or applications;<sup>9</sup>

WHEREAS, the CDC found that among adult smokers, 70% report that they want to quit smoking completely and that tobacco users find it easier to reduce their consumption or quit entirely when they are in a tobacco-free environment;<sup>10</sup>

WHEREAS, the Spring 2016 Daily Trojan Editorial Board called for a smoke-free USC;<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS, the Staff Assembly Environment Committee circulated a survey requesting the staff's opinions about smoking at USC from November 18, 2015 to November 30, 2015;

WHEREAS, of the 2,271 USC staff members who answered the survey (1,515 respondents from UPC and 756 respondents from other campuses), 82% of the survey respondents supported or remained neutral to USC becoming 100% smoke-free;

Therefore, Be it RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate recommends:

A. That the administration of University of Southern California implement a 100% smoke-free policy to create a healthier environment for students, employees, and visitors; to support tobacco users who are trying to quit; and to reduce the number of new tobacco users by promoting the social norm of a tobacco-free environment. A smoke-free policy means that smoking tobacco and cannabis, and the use of electronic smoking devices (which includes e-cigarettes) is strictly prohibited on all University-controlled properties.

B. That USC administration create a Smoke-Free Campus Task Force that will work with the Smoke-Free Campus Coalition to draft a new smoke-free policy, implement the new policy effective Fall 2016, provide smoking cessation services to students and employees wishing to quit smoking, and ensure ongoing compliance with the new policy.

C. That as an R1 research university with faculty and students who research and tend to the effects of smoking and tobacco use, USC recognize its responsibility to exercise leadership in the promotion of a healthy, smoke/tobacco-free environment for all students, employees, and visitors.

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<sup>9</sup> Miller, Kimberly D., et al. "Impact of the Adoption of Tobacco-Free Campus Policies on Student Enrollment at Colleges and Universities, North Carolina, 2001-2010." *Journal of American College Health* 63.4 (2015): 230-6. Web.

<sup>10</sup> Osinubi OYO, Slade J. Tobacco in the workplace. *Occupational Medicine* 2002;17(1):137-158.

<sup>11</sup> <http://dailytrojan.com/2016/02/25/its-time-for-usc-to-become-smoke-free/>

# For a healthier student body, ban smoking | Daily Trojan

Elizabeth Gu | Daily Trojan

Several smoking restriction bills were signed earlier this year by Gov. Jerry Brown. These included raising the age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21, as well as broadening the types of workplaces that must ban tobacco use on their premises, among other stipulations.

Now, Brown finds himself facing the State Assembly's legislation to ban smoking or disposal of tobacco products on all campuses of the California State University and California Community College systems by 2018. Seeing Brown's previous willingness to raise the tobacco age, chances are that he would agree to these bills as well. The State Assembly passed these by a 41-24 vote and this swooping majority showcases the state's view about tobacco consumption in general, not just cigarette smoking itself.

The ban on smoking in state-owned or operated beaches and parks finds its roots in the environmental and health-related arguments. Assemblyman Kevin McCarty argues that this bill needs to be approved by Brown to ensure a better life for the campus staff, students and faculty as it "addresses the harmful health effects that come with smoking and secondhand smoke on our college campuses."

This potential ban was preceded by the adoption of a tobacco-free policy on a few California campuses that took effect in 2014. Cal State Fullerton has already fully adopted the policy by banning it on campus. USC, too, needs to address its own smoking concerns. Currently, smoking is not allowed inside public establishments, and smokers have to be at least 20 feet from a building to light up. To accommodate students who do not smoke, there are multiple designated smoke-free areas around campus. This policy has been around for a long time, but looking at the current trend and the way other neighboring schools are moving away from smoking or secondhand smoke, it becomes crucial to acknowledge how harmful smoking really is.

As of spring 2012, 14.4 percent of USC students smoked daily or one or more days a week, according to a report by the USC American College Health Association-National College Health Assessment. The same study found that undergraduates smoke more frequently than graduate students. So, if that is the case, in these past three to four years, it may not have decreased. This begs the question of whether students actually realize that cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. It also leads to about 90 percent of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80 percent in women. Considering the kind of facts that surround smoking, one would expect USC to become more rigid with its policies after all, as Sen. Marty Block pointed out, cigarettes are non-biodegradable and contain more than 164 toxic chemicals which create a substantial trash and health issue. USC must account not only for health hazards, but environmental concerns as well. Even UCLA adopted a restriction on smoking on campus in 2013 and became the first of the UC schools to do so. So shouldn't we follow UCLA's footsteps and attempt to make a difference in the lives of all those who come to USC everyday, from the security personnel to the student body? Rigidity could revolutionize and increase the lifespan of all those who call themselves proud members of the Trojan Family.

# Does a ban on smoking on USC's campus really make sense?

## | Daily Trojan



By JORDAN TYGH

April 12, 2016 in [Opinion](#)

The Smoke-Free Campus Coalition, an on-campus, student-run organization that has advocated for the ban of tobacco use on campus, has recently been pushing the campuswide ban of both cigarettes and smokeless tobacco use on campus. Late last month, the Undergraduate Student Government Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling for a smoke-free campus, and the Graduate Student Government Senate will vote on it during their last senate meeting next Monday. The resolution has good intentions — it hopes to reduce the use of tobacco by making campus a smoke-free environment and to create an overall healthier lifestyle for the Trojan community. However, many of these things won't result from a ban. Ultimately, a ban would be bad for USC.

Such a resolution ignores personal freedom. Students, faculty, staff and guests should be free to smoke if they choose to do so. Supporters of the ban contend that secondhand smoke from tobacco products can harm others, but the University Park Campus already has designated smoking areas. There certainly needs to be better enforcement of these designated areas. People seem to smoke all over campus without any issue, and many people may not even know that there are designated areas. There should be a push to make it well known that there are designated areas and have them enforced by students or staff by simply letting smokers know. Having designated smoking areas is fair. People that don't want to be exposed to secondhand smoke can make sure they avoid these spots, and people who choose to smoke will still be able to.

One part of this resolution that doesn't have any ground to stand on is the ban on smokeless tobacco products, products like chewing tobacco. Chewing tobacco doesn't cause harm to anyone other than the person choosing to use it. It's completely a personal choice.

This ban also doesn't consider international students and how their lifestyles might be affected by it. Tobacco use is a cultural norm in different countries. Many international students come from countries where tobacco

use is normal and widely practiced, and banning it wouldn't be fair to these students. It's also a raw deal for the USC staff that use these products. The employees that serve the Trojan community work hard, and many of them use these products on their breaks to relax during a hard day of work. It's not right to take that away.

To be clear, tobacco use is bad, and it should absolutely be discouraged. Tobacco has ended lives and brought devastation to many individuals. However, this doesn't mean student government or the USC administration should ban it. Instead, they can invest more in anti-tobacco campaigns and education programs that may help reduce use.

Ultimately, the decision to use tobacco is a personal choice. Trojans should have the freedom to use tobacco products on campus. Now it's up to the GSG Senate to send a message to the administration by voting it down.

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# Ban on smoking is ineffective, ignores international students

## | Daily Trojan



By SONALI SETH - COUNTERPOINT

August 30, 2015 in [Columns](#), [Featured](#), [Opinion](#)

In a historic anti-smoking move, the California State Senate voted last Thursday to increase the smoking age to 21 and prohibit e-cigarettes from public places that ban traditional smoking. The motion to restrict the presence of smoking echoes an institutional shift toward non-smoking, especially in higher education. Earlier this month, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa joined the more than 1,500 smoke-free campuses in the United States. The latest ban on smoking shifts the conversation closer to campus, but before administrators immediately ban smoking, they must consider the ramifications to ensure that a ban would be effective.

The University's primary problem lies with enforcement. Just as many underage students can attest that alcohol is not difficult to find on campus, USC may not be able to fully enforce a ban on smoking. Considering that the University often fails to enforce its current smoking policy on the University Park Campus — which prohibits smoking in enclosed buildings; within 10 feet of outdoor dining areas; in facilities, vehicles and “smoke-free” designated areas; and in locations during indoor events — it is fair to wonder whether a more comprehensive smoke-free policy will carry the weight it should.

Banning smoking on campus could also present practical issues. According to a study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health earlier this month, one-third of college-age students have smoked a cigar or cigarette in the past four weeks. That means that there are over 6,000 USC undergraduates who smoke. A comprehensive smoking ban could push students off-campus and if it is late at night or they are alone, students forced to leave campus could present safety issues for the University. Additionally, residence hall smokers may be forced to smoke in their dorm rooms, which could increase secondhand smoke exposure for those in the building.

As the university with the second-largest international population in the country, USC must also realize the cultural diversity of the students it houses. For many international students who smoke, the habit stems from

cultural norms in a country in which smoking may carry less of a stigma. A comprehensive smoke-free policy could make it even more difficult for these students to adjust to life in Los Angeles. By imposing more of our own Western traditions and values on international students, we fail to accommodate for students for whom smoking may be a cultural habit.

Smoking is an unhealthy habit and secondhand smoke is an unfair consequence that endangers the public health of students at USC. However, before the University jumps on the bandwagon to eagerly publicize a smoke-free campus, it must invest in research that sheds light on how a smoke-free campus could affect its students. Instead of instituting an ineffective ban that fails to account for the experiences of all students, the University first needs to better comply with existing policy and ensure that smokers light up only in smoking areas. Considering the misinformation about smoking — be it the difficulty of getting addicted or the long-term effects of tobacco use — the University could also invest more in tobacco education. USC already implements sexual assault education and alcohol education for incoming freshmen and a segment on tobacco use could easily be incorporated.

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