

Florida Atlantic University

Student Government

Boca Raton House of Representatives

4th Legislative Session

BRHB-10-23

“Let the Student’s Decide”

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WHEREAS: Florida Atlantic University has a commitment to providing it’s students and staff with a healthy work and learning environment, and;

WHEREAS: In Fall 2008 Student Government showed interest in moving towards establishing a healthier environment for students by passing the “Breathe Easy Zones” legislation in the Boca Raton House of Representatives, and;

WHEREAS: According to reports from the American Lung Association (2010), tobacco – free policies are being implemented in 243 colleges and universities in the United States, and;

WHEREAS: Similar policy is already being enforced at 8 colleges and universities throughout Florida, including: University of Florida, University of South Florida, Florida International University, University of Miami, and Palm Beach State College, and;

WHEREAS: Many other universities, including: Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida State University are currently in the talks of implementing such policy, and;

WHEREAS: Two polls in regards to smoking on campus were taken on the spring 2009 University – wide Polls Ballot, where seven percent of the student population voted, and;

WHEREAS: Seventy – six percent of students polled supported limiting smokers to using designated smoking areas at FAU and sixty – five percent support a completely smoke – free university, and;

WHEREAS: Multiple forums were held in spring 2010 urging students to come and express their opinion on this matter, and;

WHEREAS: University faculty and staff, along with Vice President, Evan Konecky and Boca Raton Campus Governor, Allison Gentry have collaborated to develop a proposed purpose and policy statement for a smoke free university (see attached) that would not be implemented until July 1, 2011, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a poll is placed on the fall 2010 University – wide Polls Ballot presenting the proposed purpose and policy statement to the student body and asking whether or not they support Florida Atlantic University becoming a smoke free university as of July 1, 2011, and;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Florida Atlantic University Student Government will support the results of this poll and respect it as the opinion of the students they represent on any further matters pertaining to Florida Atlantic University becoming a Smoke – free university.

Purpose Statement

To promote the health and well-being of our students, visitors, and employees, all Florida Atlantic University facilities will be tobacco-free starting July 1, 2011. Visitors, students, and employees will no longer be able to smoke or use tobacco products on any Florida Atlantic University campus. We have a commitment to providing our staff and students with a healthy work and learning environment. We now call on our faculty, staff, students, and customers to model health-promoting behaviors while on our properties. Based on reports from the American Lung Association (2010), tobacco-free policies are being implemented in 243 colleges and universities in the United States. Similar policy is being enforced at eight colleges and universities throughout Florida, including: University of Florida, University of South Florida, Florida International University, University of Miami, and Palm Beach State College.

According to the World Health Organization:

- There are more than 4,000 chemicals in second-hand tobacco smoke, of which at least 250 are known to be harmful and more than 50 are known to cause cancer.
- In adults, second-hand smoke causes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, including coronary heart disease and lung cancer. In infants, it causes sudden death. In pregnant women, it causes low birth weight. Second-hand smoke causes 600,000 premature deaths per year. Exposure to secondhand smoke kills about 50,000 Americans each year.
- "Thirdhand smoke" is the term given to the residual of second-hand tobacco smoke contamination that settles into the environment and stays there even after a cigarette has been extinguished. The chemical particles resulting from the burning of tobacco, including tar and nicotine, linger on clothes, hair, upholstery, drapes etc., long after the smoke has cleared from the air. These particles are formed from more than 200 poisonous gases, many of which are cancer causing, such as cyanide, ammonia, arsenic, and polonium-210 (which is radioactive.) These chemicals are deposited on surface areas and over time can be released back into the air (MayoClinic).
- Separate or ventilated smoking areas do not protect non-smokers from second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke can spread from a smoking area to a non-smoking area, even if the doors between the two areas are closed and even if ventilation is provided. 100% smoke-free environments are the only proven way to adequately protect the health of people from the harmful effects of second-hand tobacco smoke.
- Smoke-free environments reduce the incidence of heart attack among the general population almost immediately, even in the first few months after being implemented.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded: "there is sufficient evidence that implementation of smoke-free policies substantially decreases second-hand smoke exposure" Studies of the effects of smoke-free policies consistently show that these policies decrease exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke by 80–90% in high-exposure settings, and that they can lead to overall decreases in exposure of up to 40%.

Florida Atlantic University will provide information and resources to assist employees, students, patients and visitors who wish to stop using tobacco products. A wide selection of counseling services, self-help materials and medicines are available today to help smokers and tobacco-users quit successfully. We will provide information online, in handouts and in flyers posted in our facilities.

Florida Atlantic University plans to go tobacco-free on all campuses starting July 1, 2011.

Policy Statement

Smoking and tobacco use are prohibited in all facilities and areas of Florida Atlantic University campuses with the exception of smokeless spitless pouches and nicotine pellets. This includes, but is not limited to, all indoor and outdoor areas and properties. These outdoor areas include, but are not limited to, university-owned or-leased vehicles, garages, parking lots, grounds, rooftops, plazas, courtyards, entrance and exit ways, and any other areas of the university campus. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, consultants, contractors, and visitors.

For purposes of this policy, "university campus" or "campus" includes all seven FAU campuses: Boca Raton, Dania Beach, Davie, Fort Lauderdale, Harbor Branch, Jupiter and Treasure Coast.

For purposes of this policy, "smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning carrying or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, hookahs, and any other lit tobacco products.

For purposes of this policy, "tobacco use" means the personal use of any tobacco product, whether intended to be lit or not, which shall include smoking, as defined above, as well as the use of an electronic cigarette or any other device intended to simulate smoking and the use of smokeless spit tobacco, and the use of unlit cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco.

Communication

Persons will be informed of this policy through:

- Signs posted in appropriate areas throughout the university
- Breathe Easy campaign
- New Student and Employee orientation
- Human Resource Services web site and *MyFAU*
- E-mail communication to all employees and students
- Employee and student handbooks

Enforcement

Beginning August 2011, warnings will be issued by Community Service Officers (CSOs) to individuals smoking on FAU campuses - warnings will notify smokers of FAU policy and services. Beginning January 2012, tickets will be given by CSOs using a one-strike system.

- If an individual is found smoking on any FAU campus, they will be given a warning and their name will be entered into a database.
- The second time an individual is found smoking on any FAU campus, they will be issued a \$10 citation.

The database will be monitored by the Dean of Students Office.