



Tobacco Free Ohio State Engaging the University Community

Gathering Feedback

As The Ohio State University considered moving forward with creating a tobacco free campus, the fall of 2012 through summer of 2013 consisted of an extensive outreach effort to solicit feedback from the entire university community. Many groups were invited to offer feedback and share advice on whether to move forward, how to move forward, questions to consider and barriers to be overcome.

Below are some of the key stakeholder groups that were consulted:

- University Senate (*Senate Steering, Faculty Council, Council on the Physical Environment, Council on Student Affairs*)
- Presidents Council
- Council of Deans
- Department Chairs
- University Staff Advisory Committee
- HR Leaders and Professionals
- Senior Fiscal Officers
- Enrollment Services
- Facilities Operations and Development
- International Students and Scholars
- Council of Graduate Students
- Inter-Professional Council
- Undergraduate Student Government
- Residence Hall Advisory Council
- University Area Commission
- University Community Business Association
- University District Organization

Public Forums

In 2012, four open forums also were provided for the campus community where a review of the Tobacco Free Ohio State proposal was provided, feedback was gathered and advice was solicited on how to manage the change:

- October 8, 15 & 18 – Open forums held at Science and Engineering Library
- October 9 – Phone forum for non-Columbus locations

Online Information

A website (tobaccofree.osu.edu) also was created to communicate information about the Tobacco Free Ohio State proposal discussion throughout the process. Many faculty, staff, students and community members took the opportunity to review the materials on the website and share their feedback by emailing the tobacco free email (tobaccofree@hr.osu.edu) provided on the site.

The Original Proposal

Below is an excerpt from the original proposal to take The Ohio State University Tobacco Free, which includes the rationale as well as the factors that precipitated this process.

*As a part of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of faculty, staff, students and campus visitors, Ohio State is considering moving to a **100 percent Tobacco Free University**, with the goals of:*

1. *Reducing health risks for non-smokers;*
2. *Reducing tobacco use among students, faculty, staff and visitors;*
3. *Cleaning up and protecting the campus environment; and*
4. *Becoming the world's healthiest university.*



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Many factors align to support the university moving forward with this proposal at this time:

- *Students have been working with Student life, advocating for Ohio State to go Tobacco Free. Faculty, staff and leaders from various colleges, units and regional campuses have asked to go tobacco free since the Medical Center did so in 2006.*
- *On July 23, 2012, the Ohio Board of Regents passed a resolution recommending that all University System of Ohio schools go tobacco free (resolution attached)*
- *On September 12, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a national initiative to eliminate tobacco use on college campuses.*
- *The State of Ohio Healthy Ohio Program and the Ohio State Board of Education support tobacco free colleges and universities and are advocating for all campuses go tobacco free.*
- *Ohio State was recently awarded the Bronze Level Health Lead Accreditation award by the US Healthiest Workplace Accreditation Program.*
- *Workplace smoking bans reduce the prevalence of smoking and daily cigarette consumption.*
- *Smokefree policies and norms are effective in reducing the initiation, prevalence and intensity of smoking among young adults.*

Conclusion

As a result of the overwhelmingly positive response from the campus community, Ohio State made the decision to proceed with a tobacco free campus effective January 1, 2014.

For additional information please visit tobaccofree.osu.edu.