



## Faculty Senate

### LSU A&M FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 22-01

#### **Call for Administrative Support of LSU's PS 118 100% Tobacco-free Policy, including a Tobacco Education Campaign for the Campus Community**

**Sponsored by Dr. Judith Sylvester, Manship School of Mass Communication/LSU SmokingWords**

**Whereas** state law [RS 40:1291.23](#) required LSU to adopt a smoke-free policy (including traditional smoking and vaping) and also authorized LSU to adopt a 100% tobacco-free policy (PS 118) which was enacted Aug. 1, 2014, all forms of tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes (including all vaping devices) and smokeless tobacco are prohibited on all areas of the campus, including classrooms, residence halls and Greek housing;

**Whereas** the American Medical Association (AMA) cites more than 20 studies, which have looked at smoking status and COVID-19 complications, finding in more than 80% of those studies, smoking resulted in a statistically significant increase in adverse outcomes;

**Whereas** research shows that, compared to nonsmokers, smokers with COVID-19 are twice as likely to be admitted to the intensive care unit, to need mechanical ventilation, or to die;

**Whereas** the AMA further cites the 2020 U.S. Surgeon General's Smoking Cessation Report indicating the impacts of smoking—which includes an increased risk of upper and lower respiratory tract infections—a substantial risk for COVID-19 infections and complications;

**Whereas** tobacco use is now concentrated in subpopulations of society, such as those with mental health and substance abuse issues, especially individuals who are dealing with other major challenges in their lives that makes quitting even more difficult;

**Whereas** a study that tested more than 4,300 young people for the coronavirus found that those who vaped regularly were five to seven times more likely to test positive, because vaping harms the lungs, increasing the risk of coronavirus infection or a more serious case of COVID-19;

**Whereas** vaping is a social activity that can include sharing tobacco devices with others, increasing the chance of infection.

**Whereas** when people are smoking or vaping, they are also exhaling particulates from deep within their lungs into the environment around them, exposing anyone sharing a living space or classroom to exhaled secondhand smoke or aerosol. Such exposure also impairs immune function in both children and adult nonsmokers, which increases susceptibility to infection;

**Whereas** 31% of LSU students are regular or social tobacco users and, 39% live with or near a person who uses tobacco products;

**Whereas** only 10% of all LSU students receive information about the health effects of vaping from freshmen orientation and less than 5% receive information from faculty members, while 51% had received information from social media that often promotes use;

**Whereas** LSU has had personnel changes across the administration, deanships and faculty and staff since 2014 that increases the lack of awareness of the 100% tobacco-free policy and the public health concerns that led to the law that requires the policy;

**Therefore** the LSU Faculty Senate requests that the administration immediately publicly support LSU's 100% tobacco-free policy and reiterate the public health issues, including COVID, that underpin the policy;

**Therefore** inform students of the added risks of contracting and spreading COVID among those who smoke and vape by adding a public health message to all University announcements regarding COVID;

**Therefore** re-enforce the policy in the same manner as other policies enacted to promote healthy behaviors among members of the campus community, such as mandatory masking requirements, responsible bicycling and responsible alcohol consumption, are broadcast and communicated to all members of the campus community;

**Therefore** special 100% tobacco-free campus messages should be distributed to faculty and students, reminding them that tobacco use is prohibited in classrooms, residence halls and Greek housing -- with special attention given to the regular vaping spots in the Quad and other hot spots where members of the campus community ignore the 100% tobacco-free policy and the public health issues, now including COVID-19, the policy was developed to address;

**Therefore** be it further resolved that LSU reconstitute the LSU Smoking/Tobacco/Inhalants/Vaping (STIV) committee for the sole purpose of developing the afore mentioned educational materials, increasing signage and suggesting re-occurring messages from top administrators to support our 100% tobacco-free campus.

**Sources:**

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