

February 23, 2016

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

In a joint meeting during fall semester, the Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Governance Association all supported a resolution favoring a tobacco-free campus at the University of Cincinnati "to promote the health and wellness of all members of the university community." Our Academic Health Center campus has already been tobacco free for a number of years.

To move forward on this recommendation for all of the University of Cincinnati's facilities and spaces, a committee is forming to draft an official tobacco-free campus policy and an implementation plan. Cochairs of this committee are Director of Benefits Liz Aumann, UC Clermont College Dean Jeff Bauer, Assistant Vice President for Utilities Services Joseph Harrell and Field Service Assistant Professor Amanda Lynch of the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services.

This committee will also include representation from a variety of university stakeholders. It will work over the next 12 months to gather input, develop the draft policy and make recommendations concerning implementation. The new policy would apply to all UC property, both inside buildings and outside. It is subject to the approval of the university's Board of Trustees and an implementation date will be forthcoming.

We have asked the co-chairs to make sure that our plan and implementation includes health and wellness education and tobacco cessation programs. Tobacco-free campus policies are already in existence at over 1000 campuses in the United States, including Ohio State University, Miami University of Ohio, Ohio University, University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University and Indiana University, just to name several.

We encourage all members of our campus community to begin to plan for the day when our tobaccofree policy is fully implemented. This is not only an important step toward providing a healthier environment for all of us, but it is also another step toward sustainability and a cleaner environment.

Sincerely,

Santa J. Ono

Bob Ambach



President



Senior VP for Administration and Finance

University of Cincinnati President's Office

Room 625, University Pavilion, Cincinnati, Ohio / Phone: 513-556-2201

President@uc.edu / uc.edu/president

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