

**UNIVERSITY SENATE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: University Life Council

Date: March 23, 2009

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the attached bill requesting the formation of a taskforce to move UAlbany toward a smoke-free campus be approved;
2. That the bill be forwarded to the President for approval and implementation.

1. The University should take all steps necessary to implement a smoking ban on all University at Albany campuses;

2. That the steps include but are not necessarily limited to:
 - prohibiting smoking on university grounds;
 - developing coordinated programs to inform the community of the policy as well as of the dangers associated with smoking;
 - providing free counseling and treatment for all members of the community who wish to quit smoking;
 - establishing procedures for enforcing this policy and punishing those who violate it;

To accomplish 1 and 2 above: the President will appoint a University Task Force no later than June 2009 that would study the steps necessary to implement these recommendations and present a preliminary report to the President no later than September 2009;

The Task Force will subsequently (1) oversee the realization of a smoke-free campus in coordinated steps throughout the 2009-10 academic year and; (2) see that the University at Albany becomes an entirely smoke-free institution, ideally, by the beginning of the Fall 2011 term.

Rationale: it is a primary responsibility of the University at Albany to promote the health and safety of all those employed by, studying at, or visiting the university;

The University at Albany has already recognized the hazards of smoking by prohibiting smoking inside its buildings and facilities and; the existing policy does not fully protect the community from the dangers of secondhand smoke. It is a further responsibility of the University at Albany to maintain the campus grounds as an attractive and congenial place in which to work, study, and exercise and; the existing policy has done little to remove the unsightliness of smoking-related litter.

Banning smoking on campus is not only consistent with—and we believe required by—the University's obligations to its community members, it is also entirely consonant with current campus initiatives such as UAlbany Goes Green;

Finally: The benefits of smoke-free campuses have been increasingly recognized by institutions of higher learning across the country, and currently more than 150 campuses have implemented full smoking bans. The New York State Commissioner of Health has urged all campuses to become completely smoke-free both in-and outside their buildings, and the Surgeon General has warned that "scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke"