

University Staff Council: Resolution to Establish a Tobacco-Free Campus

Whereas, the University Staff Council represents a large part of the campus community, and

Whereas, every student, faculty, staff, and visitor deserves the right to a clean and tobacco-free environment, and

Acknowledging that health promotion serves our mission by creating and supporting healthy learning environments, and

Acknowledging that our university engages individuals who will become political, social, and economic decision makers thereby advancing the collective health of the community, and

Realizing that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), smoking costs approximately \$157 billion each year — or \$7.18 per pack of cigarettes. Adult smokers consume an average of 1.3 packs of cigarettes a day, or 472 packs a year per smoker. Using this calculation, the average annual cost to employers is \$3,391 per smoker, or approximately \$1,300 more per year than the cost of a nonsmoker,¹ and

Realizing that among all smokers, the prevalence by age is highest among college-age people (18-24), and that the use of tobacco for the first time and regular use of tobacco has been seen to increase while in college from freshman to senior year. Not only does this put this age group at a higher risk for initiating or strengthening an addiction to tobacco but it simultaneously endangers non-smokers on campus,² and

Whereas, a report on the results of a campus-wide survey was completed to assess opinions about the current campus tobacco policy and the possibility of having a tobacco-free campus was provided to the President, and

Emphasizing that the Student Government Association has initiated a Green Fee Resolution, and

Emphasizing that former University President Grube has signed the Presidential Climate Commitment declaring our emphasis to be a green campus and promote sustainability, and

¹ Economic Impact of Tobacco Use on Employers: Mayo Clinic, 2013
<http://www.mayoclinichealthsolutions.com/products/Tobacco-Quitline-Economic-Impact.cfm>

² Clarkin, Patrick F., Tisch, Linda A. & Glicksman, Arvin S. (2008). Socioeconomic Correlates of Current and Regular Smoking Among College Students in Rhode Island. *Journal of American College Health*, 57(2), 183-190. DOI: 10.3200/JACH.57.2.183-190.

Desiring to change the attitude that we can make a difference at Georgia Southern University, and

Recognizing that we are aware of some Georgia institutions of higher education that have successfully implemented smoke/tobacco-free campus policies (Armstrong Atlantic, College of Coastal Georgia, Darton College, Emory University, Gainesville College, Georgia Highlands College, Georgia Health Sciences University, Gordon State College, Medical College of Georgia, Mercer University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Oglethorpe University, Piedmont College, Shorter University, University Of Georgia Health Sciences Campus, 8 state technical colleges)³ and others are in the process of proactively pursuing the smoke/tobacco-free campus initiative, and

Having considered that Georgia Southern University will establish itself as the leader in this initiative among other Georgia, and regional institutions, and

Having considered that the University of Florida and 766 other institutions across the nation have passed smoke/tobacco-free campus policies,³ and

Whereas, a tobacco-free policy if implemented, will reflect a cleaner, healthier, and safer environment on campus and demonstrate a commitment to our university values, and mission,

Therefore be it resolved that the University Staff Council calls upon the Georgia Southern University Faculty Senate to vote to support our resolution to establish a tobacco-free campus, and

Members of the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, University Staff Council, and key administrators chosen by the President, will form a committee that will develop a campus implementation plan, and

As our campus continues to grow, this committee will meet annually to review changes or additions if necessary.

³ American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation. U.S. Colleges and Universities with Smokefree and Tobacco-Free Policies. <http://www.no-smoke.org/goingsmokefree.php?id=519>

