

College Council on Community Policy

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2014

Members Present: Najwa Alsheikh, Carla Cooke, Ashavan Doyon, Brent Durbin, Beth Gillespie, Ralph Gould, Jr., Scott Graham, Stacie Hagenbaugh (chair), Sam Masinter, Dalia Mehیار, Donna Safford, Vera Shevzov, Laura Smiarowski, Elise Smith, Fraser Stables, Susan Stratton Sayre, Barbara Williams

The meeting began at 12:07 p.m. Chair Stacie Hagenbaugh opened the meeting by asking for an informal discussion of the smoking policy, following the presentation given at last month's Council meeting by students in the Lewis Leadership Program.

During the discussion, various Council members observed that:

- It is difficult to find a unified policy that will satisfy everyone
- There is a strong need for education about the current policy in houses, across campus, and in the wider community that uses the Smith campus
- Enforcement of the existing policy is difficult
- Increased educational efforts could be combined with the opening of the new Wellness Center in August
- The focus should be about education and concern for the community, and not about the suggestion that people should not be smoking (e.g., through promotion of the Wellness Center's cessation programs)
- Tastefully designed and carefully placed signs could help inform the public (including Smith community members), although there could be aesthetic concerns
- It may be difficult to approach a smoker violating the policy and avoid conflict; some people will comply gracefully and others may not
- Someone sensitive to second-hand smoke might not be able to approach a smoker without becoming ill; the people most affected may not be able to do the respectful asking that may be required
- There needs to be an entity on campus whose job it is to keep the education going about the smoking policy (e.g., "this is what twenty feet looks like")

- Residential Life manages required programs around diversity issues, so smoking policy reminders could be included
- There seems to be little openness to the “smoke-free campus” idea; making the existing policy work seems to be the preferred path
- Education about the current smoking policy can be extended to staff and faculty via meetings of the chairs and directors and by placing it on department agendas
- The materials for cessation programs are very expensive, but will be offered to students in the new Wellness Center; perhaps this benefit could be extended to staff and faculty who would like to stop smoking (Stacie will ask HR about this)
- Staff members go to the same places to smoke, some of which are not twenty feet from buildings (e.g., outside the Campus Center near the handicap accessible ramp)
- It might be helpful to map the twenty-foot perimeter of the buildings, to identify the places where smoking is/is not permitted; chalking might help in the education process
- This effort might also help to identify places where the policy is not practical (e.g., where a city sidewalk is closer to a Smith building than twenty feet—the city law would overrule the Smith policy)
- The twenty-foot distance is not solely from building doorways so that air intakes and other access to interior spaces (such as open windows) are protected

Stacie noted that there will be one more CCCP meeting this semester, and if there are any issues that members would like to share with her, she can use them to set up next semester’s agenda. She said that she would ask President McCartney if there is anything with which the Council can assist.

The meeting ended at 12:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 4, 2014, at noon (Campus Center 103/104).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carla Cooke