

A RESOLUTION OF THE DUKE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING SMOKING ON DUKE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS

WHEREAS, smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, negatively affecting users and the communities of which they are a part; and

WHEREAS, the history of Duke and the tobacco industry coupled with the high prevalence of smoking in North Carolina's past and present creates local gravity for a national public issue; and

WHEREAS, scientific literature unequivocally indicates that the most effective public health outcomes are achieved from cessation interventions targeting young adults; and

WHEREAS, the university offers a powerful space for a public health intervention, with nearly 2,000 institutions of higher education nationwide establishing smoke free policies for their campuses; and

WHEREAS, surveys from the Duke Center for Smoking Cessation coupled with Duke Student Government forums, outreach, and meetings, indicate that the majority of all stakeholder groups on campus – including students – support the move to make Duke a smoke free campus; and

WHEREAS, studies of smoke free campuses have indicated that such policies lead to a reduction in smoking rates and an improvement in both individual and institutional health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Duke University has an obligation to preserve and protect the health and wellbeing of the members of its community, including students, staff, and faculty; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DUKE GPSC, that Duke GPSC supports designating Duke University as a smoke free campus, and urges President Vincent Price and Chancellor for Health Affairs A. Eugene Washington to enact such a policy that is both comprehensive in scope, sensitive to marginalized groups, increases access to smoking cessation resources and is reinforced by the necessary investment in clinical services to actively meet the needs of the citizens of the Duke community.

Introduced by GPSC GA Representative, Jacqueline Robinson-Hamm

Amended by GPSC GA Representative, Jacqueline Robinson-Hamm on 10/31/17