WHEREAS Wichita State University is a higher education institution committed to ensuring the health and well-being of all who interact with the university environment; and

WHEREAS Goal Three of the Wichita State University Strategic Plan is to “capitalize systematically on relevant existing and emerging societal and economic trends that increase quality educational opportunities;”1 and

WHEREAS Goal Five of the Wichita State University Strategic Plan is to “empower students to create a campus culture and experience that meets their changing needs,”2 and

WHEREAS the purpose of a Tobacco-Free policy is to reduce harm from second hand smoke, provide an environment that encourages persons to be tobacco-free, establish a campus culture of wellness, and promote a tobacco-free future; and

WHEREAS Tobacco-Free be defined as any policy that eliminates the use of any tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookahs, and electronic cigarettes; and

WHEREAS tobacco use and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke remain the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States3; and

WHEREAS patterns of tobacco use are changing with more intermittent use of cigarettes and an increase in use of other tobacco products4; and

WHEREAS a representative sample of Wichita State University students, faculty and staff participated in a Qualtrics survey about their beliefs and behaviors related to tobacco on the Wichita State University campus; and
WHEREAS 18.85% of Wichita State University students, faculty and staff used tobacco products within the past year; and
WHEREAS approximately 70% of smokers want to quit smoking; and
WHEREAS the effects associated with prolonged exposure to e-cigarette use are unknown; and
WHEREAS cigarette butt waste is the number one source of litter on the planet; and
WHEREAS almost 1,000 campuses have adopted tobacco-free policies, 176 of which prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes anywhere on campus; and
WHEREAS the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, University of Nevada-Reno, and University of North Dakota; Wichita State University identified peer institutions, have already adopted tobacco-free policies; and
WHEREAS Clemson University, Oklahoma State University, and University of Texas-El Paso; Wichita State University identified aspiring peer institutions, have already adopted tobacco-free policies; and
WHEREAS fellow Missouri Valley Conference Schools University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, and Indiana State University have already adopted smoke-free policies while Missouri State University has adopted a tobacco-free policy; and
WHEREAS eleven Kansas colleges and universities have already adopted tobacco-free policies; and
WHEREAS any attempt to coordinate a tobacco-free policy should include cessation resources for those who wish to quit at little or no cost; and
WHEREAS it is the policy of Wichita State University to provide a smoke-free workplace for all employees in compliance with the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act and use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes is prohibited in all areas of all campus buildings including within a ten-foot radius outside any doorway, open window or air intake leading into any building, facility, stadium, and Charles Koch Arena; and
WHEREAS Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act prohibits smoking within ten feet of any doorway, open window or air intake; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Senate of Wichita State University supports the research efforts of the Wichita State University Tobacco-Free Campus Leadership Team and commends their diligence in researching the possibility of making ours a tobacco-free campus.
TITLE: R001 Title: Support of a Tobacco-Free Campus

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be forwarded with respect to Dr. John Bardo, President of the University; Dr. Wade Robinson, Vice President for Student Engagement; Dr. Anthony J. Vizzini, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs; Christine Schneikart-Luebbe, Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Engagement; The Wichita State University Police Department; The Wichita Eagle, the newspaper serving the Greater-Wichita Metropolitan area; and The Sunflower, the Student Newspaper of Wichita State University.

APPROVED: Date

[Signatures]

Matthew J. Conklin
Student Body President

Brandon M. Baltzell
Student Body Vice President
President of the Senate


References


