

## Commission on Student Affairs 2002-03A

### Resolution Concerning Smoking within the Residence Halls

Approved by RHF: April 23, 2002  
First Reading by CSA: October 10, 2002  
Second Reading CSA: October 24, 2002  
First Reading by University Council: November 4, 2002  
Approved by University Council:  
Approved by the President:  
Approved by the Board:

- Whereas Smoking in the residence halls is a pertinent current issue as evidenced by the attention of Residential and Dining Programs (RDP), the Residence Hall Federation (RHF), The Collegiate Times, WUVT, and the student body of Virginia Tech, and
- Whereas RHF conducted a three week long online survey which gathered 2482 responses from the general population of Virginia Tech, and
- Whereas 9.2% of Virginia Tech's general population of 27,000 and 23.5% of Virginia Tech's on-campus residents completed the survey, with minimal appearance of erroneous results (see report), showing that the results soundly represent the opinions of Virginia Tech's student population, and
- Whereas 24.9% of all participants chose  No Smoking in Any Building and 15.4% chose  No Smoking Anywhere on Campus as their primary policy choices when filling out the survey, and
- Whereas 27.8% of the returning on-campus students who participated chose  No Smoking in Any Building and 16.0% chose  No Smoking Anywhere on Campus, and
- Whereas 68.8% of all on campus participants believed that students should not be able to smoke in their own rooms, and
- Whereas 62.2% of participating smokers (15.1% of total responses) currently do not smoke in their room, and only 15.4% of that group would smoke in their room if their roommate agreed, and
- Whereas The fact that an unprecedented 23.5% of on campus students completed the survey demonstrates an overwhelming student interest and concern for this issue, let it therefore be

- Resolved That RHF recommends to RDP that all residence halls on the Virginia Tech campus be designated as non-smoking buildings, with the option of this policy being phased in over a period of one or more years.
- Resolved that both Administrative Policy 1010 and Section V.p. of University Policies for Student Life be revised, effective with the conclusion of the 2002-2003 academic year, to read as follows (deletions crossed out; substitute wording in italics):

## Policy 1010: Policy on Smoking

### 2. Policy

Within facilities owned or leased by the university and in university-owned vehicles, smoking is not permitted. ~~Exceptions to the policy involve residential and special purpose housing.~~ *The only exception to this policy is for lodging rooms designated as smoking rooms in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.*

#### ~~2.1 Residential and Special Purpose Housing~~

- ~~1. All residential and dining halls are non-smoking facilities, with the exception of a student's individual room where smoking may be permitted provided both roommates agree.~~
- ~~2. The occupants of special purpose housing units will determine the smoking policy for each facility.~~
- ~~3. Smoking at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center is permitted in lodging rooms designated as smoking rooms and in the ambulatory of the hotel.~~

#### ~~2.2 Conflicts~~

~~Within the residential communities, common courtesy and consideration toward others should be exercised. Conflicts between persons who choose to smoke and persons who choose not to smoke shall be mediated by the resident director after discussions with those involved.~~

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR STUDENT LIFE

### Section V.p. — Smoking Policy

Virginia Tech is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and pleasant learning and work environment for its students and employees. Medical research has shown that smoking poses hazards to the smoker's health and that passive smoke may be hazardous to nonsmokers. This policy is an effort to protect students and employees from the potential health hazards and discomfort of exposure to smoke while recognizing and respecting the rights of those who choose to smoke. Smoking is the lighting or burning of any pipe, cigar, cigarette, or other tobacco product.

Smoking is not permitted within facilities owned or leased by the university or in university-owned vehicles. ~~Exceptions to the policy involve residence halls and Oak Lane Community (also known as Special Purpose Housing).~~ *The only exception to this policy is*

*for lodging rooms designated as smoking rooms in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.*

#### ~~Residential and Oak Lane Community~~

~~1. All residential and dining halls are nonsmoking facilities, with the exception of a student~~

~~individual room, where smoking is permitted provided that both roommates agree.~~

~~2. The occupants of Oak Lane Community units will determine the smoking policy for each unit.~~

~~3. Smoking at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center is permitted in lodging rooms~~

~~designated as smoking rooms.~~

~~Within the residential communities, common courtesy and consideration toward others should be exercised. Conflicts between persons who choose to smoke and persons who choose not to smoke shall be mediated by the residence life staff after discussions with those involved.~~

#### Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all students, faculty, and staff to observe the smoking policy. It is the responsibility of each supervisor, manager, department head, director, dean, vice provost, and vice president to enforce the provisions of this policy. Smokers should not impede traffic flow in or out of buildings and should smoke in a location where smoke cannot drift into offices or class space. Additionally, employees and students are asked to keep the smoking locations free of cigarette butts and other trash.