

DRAFT Recommendations of the UVM Tobacco-Free Steering Committee

October 2014

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths in the United States each year, including an estimated 42,000 deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, About 20% of people aged 18 to 24 years old smoke cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including hundreds that are toxic and about 70 that can cause cancer, and there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, Cigarette butts, primarily from filtered cigarettes, are the most common source of litter on the planet, and these non-biodegradable plastic filters contain dangerous chemicals and carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, In March 2013, President Sullivan appointed a Steering Committee with representation from across the University to examine and implement a Tobacco-Free Initiative at UVM; and

WHEREAS, Over the subsequent year, more than 50 students, staff and faculty volunteered to join one or more of the five subcommittees; and

WHEREAS, The Steering Committee and subcommittees researched the health and environmental impacts of the use of tobacco products; engaged in formal and informal conversations and meetings with various groups around campus, the Vermont Department of Health and the Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community; conducted one spring town hall meeting; examined the approaches and experiences of other universities that are already Tobacco-Free; and created a UVM website (www.uvm.edu/tobaccofree); and

WHEREAS, Tobacco-Free policies are effective in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and promoting a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, As of October 1, 2014, at least 1,477 U.S. college campuses are 100% smoke free and 975 are 100% Tobacco-Free; and

WHEREAS, The health of our students, faculty, staff, and campus environment is our priority, the UVM Tobacco-Free Steering Committee therefore recommends the following DRAFT recommendations for university-wide discussion, in response to President Sullivan's charge:

1. We recommend that all UVM properties, including buildings, grounds, roadways, walkways, parking structures and surface lots become tobacco-free. "Tobacco-free" shall be defined as prohibiting the use of all forms of tobacco, all products derived in whole or in part from tobacco, including e-cigarettes.

We recognize that the University cannot prohibit tobacco use on city rights of way, including public streets, sidewalks and greenbelts along the perimeter of UVM property.

2. We recommend that a Tobacco-Free policy be developed and maintained as part of official University regulations.
 - a. We recommend that there be one policy that pertains to all University facilities, buildings and grounds.
 - b. We recommend that, wherever possible, the policy be extended to leased properties.
 - c. We recommend that all new rental agreements contain language clearly communicating that the University is tobacco-free and outlining our expectation that groups using our campus will adhere to this policy.
 - d. We recommend that the University inform all contractors and vendors of the tobacco-free policy as part of their orientation process.
3. We recommend that the Tobacco-Free policy be communicated on an ongoing basis and that it be continually reinforced to all members and guests of the UVM community in a simple and respectful manner.
4. We recommend that the focus of compliance related to the Tobacco-Free UVM policy be on education and collaboration with campus constituencies. We believe that peer support, supervisory oversight, and voluntary compliance will ultimately lead to behavioral and cultural change. We recommend that UVM provide educational resources to support managers, supervisors, students, faculty and staff with methods to address violations in a respectful manner. As with other University policies and practices, repeat offenders of the policy will be addressed through existing procedures.
5. We recommend that the University continue to provide access to smoking cessation programs with free or discounted resources and ongoing, long-term support. We recommend that these programs be evaluated periodically.

6. We recommend that signage be installed and maintained on University property, at places of common ingress, and at public gathering spots, including visitor parking areas. The signage should communicate that UVM is tobacco-free.
7. We recommend that there be no installation of smoking shelters. We also recommend that cigarette butt containers be removed from interior campus locations and installed next to city streets in areas where individuals may be likely to smoke.
8. We recommend that the Tobacco-Free Steering Committee focus on short-term implementation and next steps. For the longer-term, we recommend that a Tobacco-Free Working Group be established, with rotating membership representative of all campus constituents. The Working Group should be advisory and be responsible to:
 - a. Evaluate the ongoing implementation of the tobacco-free initiative
 - b. Respond to issues raised by members of the University community
 - c. Make recommendations to the Administration in response to the needs of the University community