2009-R-20

Tobacco Use Policy Compromise

Sponsors: Andrew Creighton
           Blake Bjornson

Vote Necessary: Majority

Intent: To present a student-led recommendation for a compromise on a tobacco use policy at the MSU-Bozeman Campus.

Whereas, it is clearly less than unanimous that the members of the Associated Students of Montana State University are in support of creating or not creating an all-encompassing ban on tobacco;

Whereas, the Associated Students represent the interest of all students, and therefore it is most prudent for the organization to recommend a compromise rather than a statement for or against an all-encompassing tobacco ban;

Whereas, ASMSU recognizes the concerns of its members who support a campus-wide ban, and seeks to alleviate the effects of second-hand smoke on non-users and honor everyone’s right to clean air, per the Montana Code Annotated, 2009 Title 50, Chapter 40;

Whereas, ASMSU recognizes the concerns of its members who do not support a campus-wide ban, and seeks to honor the right of smokers to engage in the legal use of tobacco;

Whereas, the current policy of no smoking within 25 feet of the perimeter of all buildings is not being enforced, and thus has limited effectiveness.

Therefore, let it be resolved that: The Associated Students urges MSU Health Promotions to create a tobacco use policy for Montana State University which explores a compromise.

Let it be further resolved that: The Associated Students recommend, as one option, the creation of several designated smoking areas around campus, that are located at a sufficient distance from all buildings and common pathways that anyone traversing the campus will easily be able to avoid inhaling second hand smoke. We also suggest that the proposed smoking areas have sufficient facilities to aid in the elimination of waste from the use of smoking products. The Associated Students recommend that enforcement and implementation of the proposed policy be carried out in the same manner as the tobacco ban proposed by MSU Health Promotion, especially utilizing education and social enforcement.

Let it be further resolved that: The Associated Students do not recommend any action regarding the use of smokeless tobacco at this time.
Let it be further resolved that: The Associated Students recommend that MSU Health Promotion and other concerned persons continue to support smoke-free and cessation practices, as well as educational, rather than paternal activities.

Let it be further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to President Gamble, Dr. Cruzado, the ASMSU Exponent, the Student Health Service, the Student Health Advisory Committee, and Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer Gail Schontzler.