

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
SECTION PPP-53 (SMOKING/TOBACCO POLICY (REVISED 2008)), EAST
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG PAGE (4)
(SMOKING POLICY, ETSU), JAMES H. QUILLEN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGE (3) (TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUSES), BILL GATTON
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGE (42) (GENERAL
UNIVERSITY CONDUCT POLICIES, SUBSECTION A) AND EAST TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CATALOG PAGE (3) (TOBACCO-FREE ETSU) IN
ORDER TO ESTABLISH DESIGNATED SMOKING AREAS AND TO PROVIDE A
MEANS FOR CIGARETTE REMNANT DISPOSAL IN THESE AREAS.**

WHEREAS, the university community should be a comfortable learning environment for all students regardless of tobacco usage habits and;

WHEREAS, the current university policy is one that has proved unenforceable as it relies on self- policing within the university community by members of the university community and;

WHEREAS, the current policy invokes a feeling of isolation among the smoking community and serves to create tension between those who are tobacco users and those who are not throughout the entirety of the campus population including students, staff and faculty members and;

WHEREAS, increased convenience for smokers by creating designated smoking areas would increase compliance with tobacco usage policies and;

WHEREAS, cigarette remnant disposal containers, commonly referred to as “butt buckets,” located within designated smoking areas would allow for expedient disposal of smoking waste and reduce littering, therefore increasing the beauty of the campus of East Tennessee State University and;

WHEREAS, this change in policy would reduce the risk of confrontation between smokers and non-smokers on this campus and serve to increase campus security by such means and;

WHEREAS, a nationwide study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health and published by ABC News on August 8, 2010 found that some thirty-three (33) percent of college students had used tobacco products in the four weeks prior to the survey, suggesting they were current tobacco users –extrapolation to the student population at East Tennessee State University

suggests the potentiality of four thousand nine hundred fifty (4,950) currently enrolled student tobacco users and;

WHEREAS, while smoking cessation programs should be encouraged and supported by the University Administration, smoking cessation should not be forced upon the students, staff or faculty under the guise of policies that make it effectively impossible to smoke during the course of work or academic study while on campus and;

WHEREAS, a study conducted by Stanford University published by ScienceDaily.com on May 3, 2007 enumerates the dangers of exposure to second-hand smoke outdoors and states that these dangers may be avoided if a distance of six feet is maintained between smoker and non-smoker and;

WHEREAS, public universities across the State of Tennessee have adopted similar measures as the one proposed herein and;

WHEREAS, the resources needed to establish designated smoking areas and furnish aforementioned areas with cigarette remnant disposal devices would be minimal and;

WHEREAS, the amendments of this policy would serve both to protect the rights of the non-smoker to not be exposed to harmful second-hand smoke and the interest of the smoker would be considered and respected.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 2010-2011 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE THAT:

Section 1. The Student Government Association of East Tennessee State University, the elected representative assembly of the entirety of the student population, respectfully requests University Administrators, in conjunction with Facilities, the Department of Public Safety, Environmental Health and Safety, the University Safety Technician and any other departments or personnel who may have a vested interest in such a policy change work in conjunction with one another to amend University Policies and Procedures Section PPP-53 (Smoking/Tobacco Policy (Revised 2008)) to allow smoking in designated areas assigned by the aforementioned parties and to allow for an increased enforcement of the revised policy.

Section 2. The enforcement of the revised code shall be conducted by direct employees of East Tennessee State University in a prudent manner and should not rely on students or outside contractors to enforce the policy.

Section 3. The designated smoking areas shall be in compliance with §39-17-1801, The Non-Smoker Protection Act, Tennessee Annotated Code as well as create a buffer zone of no less than six feet between the areas and commonly walked pathways as to protect non-smokers from second-hand smoke hazards.

Section 4. The designated smoking areas shall be in the immediate area of an academic building, residence hall or administrative facility as permissible by law. The areas should not specifically and exclusively be located on the fringe of campus, but in convenient locations such as to facilitate voluntary usage of said facilities.

Section 5. The designated smoking areas, once established, shall be made public knowledge by signage, publication of maps and publication of a list indicating the areas. These maps and/or lists should be posted around campus, made available in an online format and distributed as part of the new policy in the publications listed herein.

Section 6. Cigarette remnant disposal units, commonly referred to as “Bucky’s butt buckets,” shall be provided at all university recognized smoking areas.

Section 7. East Tennessee State University Undergraduate Catalog page four (4) (Smoking Policy, ETSU) is to be modified to reflect the revised policy once it is established.

Section 8. James H. Quillen College of Medicine Student Handbook page three (3) (Tobacco-Free Campuses) is to be modified to reflect the revised policy once it is established.

Section 9. Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy Student Handbook page forty-two (42) (General University Conduct Policies, subsection A) is to be modified to reflect the revised policy once it is established.

Section 10. East Tennessee State University Graduate Catalog page three (3) (Tobacco-Free ETSU) is to be modified to reflect the revised policy once it is established.

Sponsor:

Senator M. Dalton Collins

Senator Matthew Huffines