



# COLUMBIAESC

## ENGINEERING STUDENT COUNCIL

In Engineering Student Council, 10 October 2016

Authored and Introduced in ESC by Sidney Perkins, Vice President of Policy

### A Resolution to Share CC/SEAS Student Opinion on Smoking in the Hopes of Reducing Smoking Prevalence and Policy Non-Compliance on the Morningside Heights Campus

#### I. SHARING OF STUDENT SENTIMENT

**WHEREAS** there is a prevalence of speculation regarding the impact of smoking among student and university legislators based primarily on anecdotal evidence, and a relative dearth of published quantitative assessments of student opinion surrounding smoking on the Morningside Campus;

**WHEREAS** the Engineering Student Council has a strong commitment to transparency and advocacy for student voice;

#### II. ADVOCACY OF ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT POLICY

**WHEREAS** among those who responded to the *Columbia University Smoking Survey*, an overwhelming number in Columbia College (CC) and in the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) favored either stronger policy or better enforcement of current policy regarding smoking on the Morningside Campus (70.4% of 747 survey respondents); [3,4]

#### III. ADVOCACY FOR STRONGER POLICY

**WHEREAS** a number of universities around the United States---including all State University of New York schools [3] and nearly two thousand other universities [4]---have banned smoking on their campuses;

**WHEREAS** Columbia University has the potential to be the leader in the Ivy League in the restriction of on-campus smoking [5];

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that Barnard has already shown exceptional leadership on this issue by banning smoking on their own campus;

**WHEREAS** the majority of students responding to the *Columbia University Smoking Survey* are in favor of a Campus-Wide Smoking Ban (58.5% yea, 32.3% nay);

**WHEREAS** current Columbia policy regarding smoking on campus states that ,  
“Enforcement of the policy is the responsibility of all members of the Columbia  
community.”; [1]

And **WHEREAS** the Engineering Student Council is bound to promote the voice of the  
students that participate in this system of representative advocacy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Engineering Student Council shall share the results of  
this survey (excepting personal information) with any person who requests it, with the *Columbia  
Daily Spectator*, with survey participants, and with members of the administration;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Engineering Student Council will advocate for  
stronger enforcement of the current smoking policy with members of the administration in  
Campus Services;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Engineering Student Council will advocate for  
stronger enforcement of current policy and a campus-wide smoking ban in the University  
Senate through the use of the council’s affiliated Senator;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Engineering Student Council will seek out partners in the  
administration to design studies to measure subsequent changes in air quality at various  
locations across campus. ESC will fund a maximum of \$300.00 for this initiative from its surplus,  
but will seek out less expensive solutions. The results of this endeavor shall be made public;

## **REFERENCES**

- [1] "UNIVERSITY SMOKING POLICY." New and Recently Updated Policies. Columbia University, July 2014. Web. 15 Sept. 2016.
- [2] Perkins, Sidney. "CU Smoking Survey." Survey. *Google Forms*. Engineering Student Council 30 Sept. 2016. Web. 30 Sept. 2016.
- [3] Seserman, Michael, RD, MPH. "Tobacco-Free College Campuses in New York State." Final-NYSCTFI-Tobacco-Free-Initiative. NYS Colleges Tobacco-Free Initiative, n.d. Web. 27 Sept. 2016.
- [4] "If You Want a Smoke, Chances Are You'll Be Having It off Campus." USA Today. Gannett, n.d. Web. 30 Sept. 2016.
- [5] "Colleges and Universities." Colleges and Universities - No-smoke.org. Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, n.d. Web. 25 Sept. 2016.