

Sub-committee to review the issue of smoking on campus

Updated: November 20, 2008

Background

In March 2008, the sub-committee to review smoking on campus was convened to assist the University Group Insurance and Benefits Committee in researching, reviewing, and analyzing the issue of smoking on campus. The sub-committee was formed by senior administration to make recommendations to The University Group Insurance and Benefits Committee on the following two issues: 1) Smoking on campus and whether the campus should go smoke-free and 2) The implementation of the current smoking legislation, including current door signage on campus.

Many institutions are reviewing the issue of smoking, including in the community, higher education, medical/healthcare organizations, corporations, etc. The University of Akron is pursuing a wellness initiative. Additionally, an Ohio indoor smoking ban took effect December 7, 2006. These happenings were the impetus for the formation of the sub-committee to review smoking on campus.

The recommendations will be provided to the Benefits Committee, which will make the ultimate recommendations regarding the issue of smoking on campus. Such recommendations will then be presented to senior leadership, who will make final decisions on this subject.

Status

The sub-committee is drafting a report of its final recommendations, which should be completed and posted online in the next week or two. In forming its recommendations, the sub-committee completed much research. Summaries and details of the research are provided online. An overview of the campus survey and focus group meetings is provided below.

- Survey research: In spring 2008, the sub-committee asked the university's students and employees for their opinions about smoking on campus. A survey was conducted to assess smoking activity on campus, attitudes toward current smoking policies on campus, and to gauge support or opposition for a strictly smoke-free campus policy. The survey received over 3,000 responses. The final survey report can be accessed online at <http://www.uakron.edu/hr/UnivGrpInsBenCom.php>
- Focus Group research: After reviewing the results of the survey research, four focus groups of students and employees were conducted to get feedback on:
 - The overall issue of smoking on campus and
 - The implementation and enforcement of current smoking-related legislation on campus.

The final focus group summary report can be accessed online at <http://www.uakron.edu/hr/UnivGrpInsBenCom.php>