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Support of Smoke Free Campus Initiative

USM Faculty Senate

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Smoking Resolution – Passed 4-1-11

The Faculty Senate endorses the University President's initiative to make the Hattiesburg and Gulf Campuses at the University of Southern Mississippi smoke free, but we ask that the Executive Cabinet address the following concerns before implementing the change.

- a. While we applaud the effort to make the campus smoke free because smoking poses a risk to non-smokers, we are not willing to endorse the infringement of individual choice that a tobacco-free campus (banning smokeless tobacco) would entail.
- b. We urge the Executive Cabinet to consider establishing designated smoking areas on campus consistent with plans currently under consideration by the Health Education and Promotion Coordinator. We feel that designated smoking areas will address pressing concerns about second-hand smoke, discourage smoking, and allow for a more gradual transition to a smoke-free campus.
- c. We have seen previous efforts to address health and environmental concerns on campus falter due to underfunding and inadequate planning. In particular, the recycling effort on campus is, at best, only partially effective. We urge the University to fully fund the smoke-free campus initiative so that resources are available for faculty and staff who want to quit smoking, proper signage is provided to warn visitors, and enforcement is not arbitrary.
- d. We urge the administration to work with the campus police to ensure fair enforcement of the policy and to determine penalties that will discourage violators but will not be punitive.