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## A Review of SMU's Current Smoking Policy

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# “A Review of SMU’s Current Smoking Policy”



Presenters:

Grayson Walker, Sophomore

Alex Ehmke, Freshman

Ryan Pitts, Senior



# About Our Team

## Student Members

**Grayson Walker:**

Sophomore: Political Science and Spanish Major

**Alex Ehmke:**

Freshman: Economics, Political Science, and Public Policy Major

**Ryan Pitts:**

Senior: Political Science Major

**Warren Seay:**

Junior: Political Science Major

**Julia Biebighauser:**

Sophomore: Political Science Major

## Faculty Cooperators

**Megan Knapp, M.P.H.**

*Health Educator, SMU Memorial Health Center*

**Dr. Michael Shiekh, M.D.**

*Psychiatrist, SMU Memorial Health Center*

# The Problem

○ May 4, 1998

○ SMU revises its smoking policy—the same policy it has today.

○ June 27, 2006

○ United States Surgeon General issues report indicating that “there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke.”

- Because of new medical, legal, and social indicators (that have arisen in the now almost 11 years since the last revision of SMU’s Smoking Policy) our team believes that a review of that Policy is needed.



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# More Problems

- On top of the medical problem, smoking causes other problems, too. For the University the most noticeable problem is an aesthetic one:
- As of September 2008 SMU spends an estimated \$66,984.96 a year collecting cigarette butts and emptying urns! What is truly shocking is that this number only reflects the cost for the custodial staff as grounds personnel numbers were unavailable.



- Data provided by SMU CPPO

Photo taken by Ryan Pitts, Spring 2009.  
Outside Entrance of Hyer Hall.



# Methodology

○ 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Accomplish a cursory review of medical science, health, sociological, and legal literature concerning the causes and effects of smoking and second-hand smoke.

2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Smoking policies of other colleges and universities will be reviewed and then compared to SMU's current Smoking Policy. Depending on what we find, it might be necessary to:
  - Study another university's smoking policy (and the decisions leading up to it) in detail.

3<sup>rd</sup>:

- "Public" input will be obtained through on-campus, open forums, e-mail questionnaires, and through meeting with students, faculty, alumni, administration, and local community and religious leaders.



## Rationale

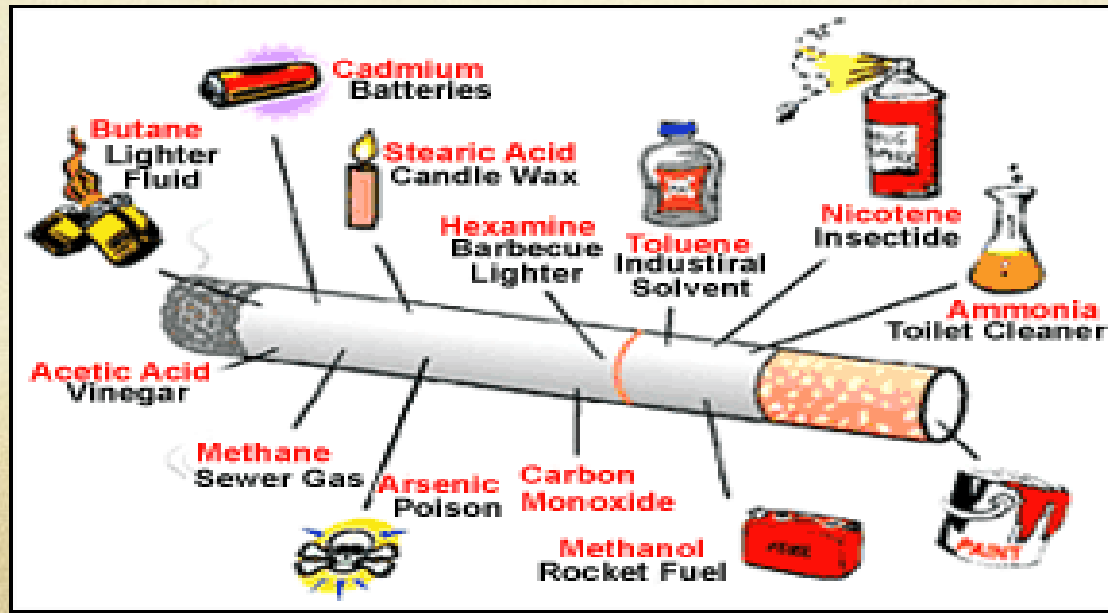


- The University has an obligation to anyone on University grounds whether student, faculty member, administrator/employee, or visitor to provide a safe, healthy, and hazard-free environment.
- A Smoking Policy ought to help ensure that the University meets this obligation as smoking policies impact the quality of life for both those who choose to smoke and those who choose not to smoke. Smoking policies also impact whether individuals choose to smoke or not to smoke. Smoking policy is an emotionally charged issue and, consequently, a simple, well-reasoned policy is required for its acceptance.



# A Further Objective

- After our Team finishes gathering the relevant data we will prepare a written report that includes: (1) a contextual overview; (2) findings with regards to other universities; (3) data regarding each stakeholder's (students, faculty, etc.) preference on policy; and (4) finally a recommendation of a Smoking Policy that the Team feels should be implemented by the University.
- Our hope is that this written report will be published and used by an influential organization (such as the American Lung Associations) to assist other universities in the reviewing process.





# Truth Video

- <http://www.thetruth.com/infect2009/videos.cfm>

