

SGA Resolution 1-14-F

A resolution to increase compliance of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy at Middle Tennessee State University

- Whereas:** Middle Tennessee State University enacted the Tobacco Free Campus Policy on July 1, 2011;
- Whereas:** The policy applies to all MTSU faculty, staff, students, contractors and visitors to campus;
- Whereas:** The policy states, "This policy applies to all forms of tobacco products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff as well as smokeless electronic cigarettes and other similar devices";
- Whereas:** Fines and citations are not part of the basic enforcement of this policy, but violations can be enforced through the measures described in the Student Code of Conduct;
- Whereas:** The policy against the use of tobacco or tobacco related products on MTSU campus remains a persistent and poorly addressed problem.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 77TH CONGRESS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

- Section 1:** In order to increase compliance with current policy, Middle Tennessee State University will consider implementing accountability measures for noncompliance of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.
- Section 2:** Accountability measures may include, but are not limited to, fines, citations and judiciary action.
- Section 3:** Deans for each respective college should encourage faculty and staff to file a report with the appropriate officials if a student is found to be in violation of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.
- Section 4:** This resolution will take effect immediately upon favorable passage.

Sponsor: Senator Dylan Bogle

Co-Sponsor: Senator Todd Benne





Speaker of the Senate



SGA President



VP of Student Affairs

**Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
and Dean of Students**

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To: Dr. Deb Sells
Vice President for Student Affairs and
Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services
From: Sarah Sudak, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students *SS*
Subject: SGA Resolution 1-14-F
Date: 20 October 2014

I have received your letter dated September 19, 2014 in reference to SGA Resolution No. 1-14-F, which requests to increase compliance of the Tobacco-Free Campus policy at Middle Tennessee State University.

The legislation requests that “in order to increase compliance with current policy, Middle Tennessee State University will consider implementing accountability measures for noncompliance of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy. Accountability measures may include, but are not limited to, fines, citations and judiciary action.”

The Tobacco-Free Policy currently states that “the discipline policies applicable to students, faculty, and staff may be invoked, if necessary, to secure compliance with this policy.” Students who violate the policy and are referred to Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services are held accountable for their behavior through the judicial process. If found responsible for violating the policy, students are sanctioned accordingly. Visitors who violate the policy should be brought to the attention of MTSU Police; faculty and staff who violate the policy should be brought to the attention of the employee’s supervisor; and contractors who violate the policy should be brought to the attention of the department for whom the contractor is working or Facilities Services.

The University Rules Committee is charged annually with reviewing the current rules and policies and making recommendations for changes to the Vice President of Student Affairs. The University Rules Committee consists of six (6) faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate and four (4) students appointed by the SGA President. This year’s student representatives to the committee were Lindsey Tedford, Todd Benne, Osheonna Smith, and Hailey Horton. This committee could have decided to recommend fines be imposed as a part of the policy’s accountability measures, however, no such recommendation was made by the committee.

In addition, the resolution requested “Deans for each respective college should encourage faculty and staff to file a report with the appropriate officials if a student is found to be in violation of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.” The College Deans are familiar with the policy and understand their role in encouraging compliance with the policy and reporting students who violate the policy.

I appreciate the time and effort that went into debating this resolution, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the University.


- cc: Mr. Andrew George
- Ms. Haley Cobb
- Ms. Chelsea Jones
- Ms. Gabby Woodland
- Dr. Danny Kelley

**Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and
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TO: Ms. Sarah Sudak
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and
Dean of Students

FROM: Debra Sells, Ed.D. 
Vice President for Student Affairs and
Vice Provost for Enrollment and Academic Services

RE: SGA Resolution 1-14-F

DATE: September 19, 2014

I am forwarding the attached Student Government Association Resolution 1-14-F requesting that the University increase compliance of the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy.

Resolutions passed by the Student Government Association are generally understood to be recommendations. Legislation resulting in these resolutions is brought before the SGA by one or more members of the Senate, and is generally subject to debate within the senate. Senate meetings are open to the full student body, and thus debates are sometimes observed by and/or joined by students other than SGA senators. Resolutions are not binding upon administrators or departments, but are generally regarded as expressing the will of the Senate on the issue brought before them.

Once a resolution has been passed by the Senate, I forward that resolution to the administrator or department most likely to benefit from reviewing the student recommendation, and in the best position to provide a response regarding possible future action. I generally ask the administrator to whom I have forwarded the resolution for some timely response that helps SGA to understand the potential feasibility of the proposal. If, in your opinion, the resolution requests action which is not feasible, I ask for your help in explaining why it is not practical, affordable, or otherwise in the best interest of the university.

In the immediate instance, I believe it would be appropriate for you to review the SGA's recommendation and provide such a response to me within 30 days. Please contact Andrew George, SGA President, or Dr. Danny Kelley if you have any questions regarding this legislation.

c: Mr. Andrew George
Ms. Haley Cobb ✓
Ms. Chelsea Jones
Ms. Gabby Woodland
Dr. Danny Kelley