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February 24, 2009

To: William Fennie, Chair, Campus Affairs Committee
From: Kenneth G. Holum, Chair, University Senate 
Subject: SEC Response Regarding Tobacco-Free Campus Report (Senate Document#: 08-09-15)

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reviewed the Campus Affairs Committee's (CAC) report regarding the Tobacco-Free Campus Proposal. The SEC would like to thank the CAC for their review of the proposal. However, we would like the committee to look into the issue further. We believe that it may be useful for the committee to meet with the author of the proposal to get more background information, a rationale, and possibly more data. We would also like the CAC to discuss the issue with the University's Legal Office to ascertain whether a policy such as this would be illegal and would indeed be a violation of civil liberties. Finally, we would like the CAC to learn more about how smoke-free policies are enforced at other Universities similar to our own or other local institutions such as NIH.

The SEC believes that this proposal was well thought out in its preparation. However, we do feel that a lot can be gained from further communication between the CAC and the author. We feel that it is important to give this proposal thorough consideration. The SEC requests that the CAC take further action as outlined above and report back by the end of the year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Reka Montfort (reka@umd.edu).

KGH/rm