



## LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 19-06

### Support for the LSU 100% Tobacco-Free Policy & Anti-Vaping Education Program

*Sponsored by Dr. Judith Sylvester, Mass Communication (Tobacco Policy researcher); Dr. Amy Copeland, Department of Psychology (Smoking Cessation researcher); Arthur Penn, Veterinary Medicine (E-cigarette Aerosol researcher); Alexandra Noel, Veterinary Medicine (E-cigarette Aerosol researcher); Michael Russo, Collection Analysis Librarian (Tobacco Policy Committee and long-time advocate)*

Whereas LSU was required by Act 211 to establish a tobacco policy on campus by Aug. 1, 2014

Whereas the policy is 100% Tobacco-Free, including combustibles, vaping devices (e-cigarettes) and smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco)

Whereas LSU has failed to enforce the policy and ignored all warnings that vaping, especially the use of JUUL, is a trend on campus

Whereas LSU further ignored that the lithium batteries in vaping devices can explode, causing serious injury or death from the flames and shrapnel expelled during the explosion and failed to ban e-cigarettes from campus as it had hoverboards

Whereas a campus-wide stratified random sample survey (referred to in this resolution as “the survey”) was conducted during the fall 2018 semester by Dr. Judith Sylvester through her SmokingWords program with 1,242 responses collected from undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, administrators, faculty and staff indicated that the percentage of students who are aware of LSU’s 100% tobacco-free policy has fallen from 93% in 2015 to 79% in 2018

Whereas the percentage of students using combustibles on campus has remained at about 12 percent, while the percentage using vaping devices on campus has increased from 4% in 2015 to 27% in 2018

Whereas students reporting seeing vaping devices (e-cigarettes) used on campus has increased from 63% in 2015 to 93% percent in 2018

Whereas 77% of the students who vape prefer JUUL, a product that delivers about 5 percent nicotine — which is roughly as much nicotine as is in a pack of cigarettes, according to the company

Whereas vaping devices are essentially nicotine delivery systems, and nicotine is a highly addictive substance

Whereas of the 190 students surveyed who use tobacco products, 42% said their tobacco use had increased since entering LSU, 35% said it had remained the same and 23% said use had decreased

Whereas 23% of all students reported having asthma, allergies or other breathing problems, and 46% of all students reported avoiding areas of campus to prevent exposure to smoke or vapor side stream.

Whereas both the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration have declared vaping to be of epidemic proportion in middle/junior high schools and high schools but has not addressed the problem on college campuses

Whereas 99% of tobacco users started before age 26, and every day more than 1,200 people in this country die due to smoking

Whereas FDA-sponsored research indicates that nicotine has negative effects on the brains of teenagers and adolescents and that vapor from e-cigarettes contain chemicals that can be detrimental to both the user and secondhand to non-smokers or non-vapers

Whereas the FDA has taken steps to prohibit tobacco companies from marketing JUUL and other vaping products to adolescents and young adults, including products with candy-like flavors

Whereas the U.S. Congress and the Louisiana legislature are debating laws raising the tobacco purchasing age to 21

Whereas LSU has a responsibility to educate its students about the dangers of all types of tobacco use and to enforce its 100% tobacco-free policy for health and safety reasons

Whereas an earlier survey Dr. Sylvester conducted with colleges/university administrators who have established tobacco policies on their campuses indicated that while student support is necessary, public support from top administrators is critical to the success of the policy

Whereas Student Government recently passed a similar resolution and the Staff Senate is considering a similar resolution

Therefore, let it be resolved that LSU take the following steps immediately:

1. Establish a permanent community committee including representatives from Student Health Services, Student Life, the Athletic Department, Student Government, Campus Sustainability, LSU Public Affairs/Strategic Communication, Veterinary Medicine and any other interested group or organization that will promote LSU's tobacco-free policy to students, faculty, staff and campus visitors.

2. The committee will track trends in tobacco use, especially among students, to determine the best ways to promote and enforce the policy and to maintain adequate funding for educational initiatives and possible tobacco cessation programs for students, faculty and staff.

3. The committee will further provide educational information regarding vaping and smoking research, FDA regulation of tobacco products, changes in Louisiana tobacco laws, up-to-date health information and to create counter messages to tobacco company promotions. Such information should be delivered through signage, posters, handout materials, social media messages and sponsorship of events, such as the national Great American Smokeout in November and Kick Butts Day in March or campus events that are promoted as tobacco-free. Establishing a peer to peer tobacco education program is recommended.

4. Establish and promote a hotline on campus so that those with questions about the policy, who are seeking cessation information or who are sensitive to secondhand smoke/vapor, are pregnant or have other health concerns can report infractions of the policy, such as vaping in classrooms and congregation of smokers/vapers in spaces that pose a health risk to employees and students. Tobacco-related trash accumulation also should be reported. The appropriate campus personnel should then take action to rectify the situation.

5. Request that faculty voluntarily include a notice in their syllabi that vaping in classrooms is prohibited by the LSU 100% tobacco-free policy.

6. Require strong, public administrative support for LSU's 100% tobacco-free policy that is maintained from year to year so that all incoming students and new faculty and staff are aware of the policy and any penalties attached to it and so that visitors to campus are made aware that LSU is 100% tobacco free.