

Resolution to amend Policy on Smoking No. 1010
Commission on University Support
Resolution 2008-2009B

First Reading by Commission on University Support	October 16, 2008
Approved by the Commission on University of Support:	November 20, 2008
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Approved by the President:	February 16, 2009
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	March 23, 2009
Effective Date:	(Date)

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia, Executive Order 41 allows the Secretary of Administration to promulgate rules for state agencies concerning smoking outside of public buildings, and

WHEREAS, these rules currently state, "Smoking is permitted outdoors on state property grounds, plazas, sidewalks, malls, and similar open pedestrian-ways provided smokers are at least 25 feet or more from an entrance, including parking garages;" and that Agencies are also requested to provide ash cans at outside locations at least 25 feet away from entrances "to aid smokers in disposing of" their smoking butts/remains, and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech Policy on Smoking, No. 1010, in keeping with Executive Order 41 also bans smoking inside buildings, and

WHEREAS, Policy 1010, Section 3.1, currently reads:

"Employees who smoke outside of buildings are expected to be considerate and courteous of other individuals in the university community. Smoking locations should not impede traffic flow in or out of buildings and should be in a location where smoke cannot drift into office or class space. Additionally, employees are asked to leave the smoking locations free of cigarette butts and other trash materials. All faculty, staff, and students share the responsibility of keeping the campus clean, attractive, and litter-free."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Policy 1010 be amended as proposed in the attached document.

Subject: Policy on Smoking

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1. Purpose

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and pleasant learning and working environment for its students and employees. Medical research has shown that smoking poses hazards to one's health. Furthermore, research suggests that passive smoke may be hazardous to non-smokers. This policy is an effort to protect students and employees from the potential health hazards and discomfort of exposure to smoke, while also recognizing and respecting the rights of those who choose to smoke.

2. Policy

Within facilities owned or leased by the university and in university-owned vehicles, smoking is not permitted. This also includes parking garages, covered walkways, temporary enclosed structures, trailers, and tents as well as structures placed on university-owned property by contractors or vendors. Smoking is permitted outdoors on university grounds, plazas, sidewalks, malls, and other similar open pedestrian-ways, provided smokers are at least 25 feet from an air intake, entrance or exit of any facility, including parking garages. The only exception to this policy is for lodging rooms designated as smoking rooms in The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, which is not operated by the university.

3. Procedures

3.1 Employee Work Breaks

In accordance with Policy 4300, "Hours of Work," supervisors may grant staff employees working an 8-hour shift, one morning break and one afternoon break which shall not exceed fifteen minutes each. These work breaks may be used to smoke outside buildings, as provided in Section 2 above. No additional smoking breaks are allowed.

3.2 Disposal of Smoking Materials

Where ash urns are furnished, they shall be placed at outside locations (25 feet or more from entry/exit ways) to aid smokers in disposing of smoking materials.

3.3 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all students, faculty, and staff to observe the smoking policy. It is the responsibility of each supervisor, manager, department head, director, dean, and vice president to enforce the provisions of this policy in their area of accountability.

Those who smoke outside of buildings are expected to be considerate and courteous of other individuals in the university community. Smoking locations should not impede traffic flow in or out of buildings and should be in a location where smoke cannot drift into office, class, or living space. Additionally, smokers are asked to leave the smoking locations free of cigarette butts and other trash materials. All faculty, staff, students, and visitors share the responsibility of keeping the campus clean, attractive, and litter-free.

4. Definitions

SMOKING is the lighting or burning of any pipe, cigar, or cigarette, or other tobacco product.

5. References

Policy 4300, "Hours of Work."

6. Approval and Revisions

Approved by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Board of Visitors on November 6, 1989. Effective January 1, 1990.

- Revision 1

Smoking prohibited in all university facilities and university-owned vehicles with the exception of special purpose housing and Hancock Hall Atrium.

Approved April 7, 1997, by the President, Paul E. Torgersen.

- Revision 2

Section 2.3 deleted. Smoking no longer permitted in Hancock Hall Atrium

Approved June 17, 1999, by the President, Paul E. Torgersen.

Annual Review December 2, 2001 by Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Minnis E. Ridenour. No revisions.

- Revision 3

Section 2 revised. The only exception to the policy where smoking is allowed is in lodging rooms designated as smoking rooms in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Sections 2.1 and 2.2 deleted. Smoking is no longer permitted in Residential and Special Purpose Housing.

Approved by Residence Hall Federation on April 23, 2002.

Approved by the Commission on Student Affairs on October 24, 2002.
Approved by University Council on December 2, 2002.
Approved by the President, Charles W. Steger, on December 2, 2002.
Approved by the Board of Visitors on March 10, 2003.

- Revision 4

Section 2 revised to read “The only exception to the policy where smoking is allowed is in lodging rooms designated as smoking rooms at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, which is not operated by the university.” (Administrative change due to name change from Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center to the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.) Revised February 8, 2007.

- Revision 5

To comply with Governor’s Executive Order 41 and guidelines promulgated by the Secretary of Administration for the Commonwealth of Virginia, as amended on July 22, 2008. The policy was revised to add the more stringent regulation that smoking is not permitted within 25 feet of an air intake, entrance, or exit of any facility owned or leased by the university, including parking garages. Smoking is not permitted in structures placed on state-owned property by contractors or vendors.

Approved by the Commission on University Support on November 20, 2008.
Approved by University Council on February 16, 2009.
Approved by President Charles W. Steger on February 16, 2009.
Approved by the Board of Visitors on March 23, 2009.