

Gannon University Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force

In October of 2017, a Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force (TFCTF) was organized to review the University's current tobacco policy based on best practices among colleges and universities as well as benchmarking with peer institutions. The task force has had wide representation from key stakeholders on campus.

TFCTF Members

- Khalid Alenezi – Undergraduate Student
- Rhonna Bollig– Office of Residential Life
- Lauren Carson – Graduate Student
- Jennifer Allen-Catellier – Health Communications Faculty
- Andrew Caswell – Psychology Faculty
- Betty Jo Chitester – Chemistry Faculty (emeritus)
- Les Fetterman – Police & Safety
- Melanie Glennon – Health & Counseling Center
- Jon Habursky - Police & Safety
- Kaitlyn Falk - Wellness
- Ashley Faulkner - Wellness
- Brent Heckman – Mission & Ministry
- Kathi Lieb – HR
- Shellie Moore – Respiratory Therapy Faculty
- Devyn Peskorski –Graduate Student
- Lisa Quinn – Nursing Faculty
- Wes Tallmadge – Chemistry Faculty
- Mary Jean Taylor – Wellness
- Kendra Walker – SGA President
- Mackenzie Wenrick – Undergraduate Student
- Marilee Wilkosz – Global Support & Engagement

Consultants

- Mary Beth Danowski - GU Finance and Admin Office (Risk Management)
- Josh Eberle – GU Campus Facilities
- Alex Iorio - Erie County Department of Public Health
- Niki Knopsnyder - Erie County Department of Public Health
- Andy Lapiska – Marketing & Communications
- Mary Ann Marchant - Erie Insurance (Wellness Director)
- Sarah Morgan - Erie County Department of Public Health

Our Strategy and Progress to Date

- The TFCTF met twice monthly from October 2018 through May 2019.
- Specific policy elements were identified and reviewed in light of best practices, comparisons with peer institutions, and preliminary consultation with other campus and community partners. These policy elements included:
 - Statement of Commitment
 - List of Tobacco Products
 - Geographical Locations
 - Scope of Policy
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Advertising & Sale of Tobacco
 - Signage
 - Transition Period
 - Adherence
- Recommendations were drafted based on input from the TFCTF and preliminary feedback from campus/community partners.
- Recommendations were shared with the senior administration. Permission to conduct focus groups and to survey the Gannon community about tobacco attitudes, behaviors, perceptions, and policy was granted.
- In April of 2018, Gannon was awarded a Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative Grant by the ACS. The grant included an \$8000 cash award and consultative services to assist in determining our community's interest and feasibility to transition to a tobacco-free campus. (The TFGCI grant application is attached below.)
- Nearly 1000 students and over 450 employees responded to an anonymous survey evaluating tobacco perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors in the Fall of 2018.
- Survey data was compiled, summarized, and distributed to all employees in April 2019.
- To date, over 120 members of the Gannon community representing students, staff, faculty, contractors, community partners, tobacco users, non-tobacco users, and former tobacco users have participated in focus groups or offered feedback in open forums.
- Input from the Gannon Community, along with consideration of best practices within higher education, guided the development of a revised policy by the GU Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force. Based feedback throughout this process, the President's Leadership Team approved these policy recommendations in June 2019.
- On August 1, 2019, the revised tobacco policy went into effect.