



BEMIDJI
STATE UNIVERSITY

Memorandum

TO: Dr. Lisa Erwin, VP for Student Development and Enrollment
Student Body Co-Presidents, Michael Meehlhause and Kyle Moellering

FROM: Dick Hanson
President

DATE: August 20, 2010

RE: Campaign for a smoke free campus

Welcome to a new academic year! 2010-2011 will prove to be a challenging yet very positive year for Bemidji State University. By way of this note I am charging you with the creation of a campus task force around the issue of making Bemidji State University a smoke-free campus. As you select the members of your task force, I recommend you keep the size of the group relatively manageable and that you provide to me a series of recommendations hopefully by the end of fall semester so that we may begin implementation of your recommendations during spring semester, 2011. I have some general ideas and suggestions for the operation and orientation of the task force, which follow.

We should consider the purpose for the policy, including the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, rising healthcare and insurance costs, and any other reasons relevant to our campus. We should consider providing a conceptual and practical tie between our smoking policy and the corporate values of the campus.

We should consider a clear statement on the elements of the policy including the use of other forms of tobacco (such as spit tobacco).

We should consider a statement on enforcement and the consequences of noncompliance.

We should consider a statement of how we will assist members of the campus community to help those who smoke or use tobacco quit (such as providing cessation assistance).

We need to have a statement on responsibility, e.g., "It is the responsibility of all members of the campus community, including visitors, to observe this policy."

It is my hope that we can follow the following time-table:

Now through December 2010 - campus conversation, policy development

January 15, 2011 - President approves the policy

April 1, 2011 - Smoke-free policy fully implemented on campus; Enforcement level one begins

Fall semester, 2011 - Enforcement level two begins

As your work begins, please feel free to involve me at any time for clarification of expectations.