

Springfield Technical Community College  
Board of Trustees

March 25, 2024  
5:00 p.m.

**MOTION 2024-06**

**SUBJECT: Smoke/Tobacco-Free Campus Policy**

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[MOTION]

**MOVE:**

That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Section 22, Chapter 15A, approves the following policy:

**Smoking is prohibited everywhere on the STCC campus, including indoors, on the grounds, and with external parking lots, except in private vehicles.**

**Related, it is understood that for the purpose of this policy smoking includes any and all burning of tobacco; use of any smoking or vaping equipment; and includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, or vaporizers.**

**BACKGROUND:**

Please see enclosed Memo prepared for Trustees on March 11, 2024 which provides additional context and detail.

**To:** Board of Trustees  
**From:** Dr. John B. Cook, President  
**Cc:** Members, Shared Governance Council  
**Recommendation:** Establishment of Smoke/Tobacco-Free Campus Policy  
**Date:** March 11, 2024

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In accordance with the formal enabling vote by the STCC Board of Trustees (June 27, 2022) regarding shared governance, including clarification of a process by which “high-level” recommendations regarding institutional and operational policies are reviewed, the Shared Governance Council (SGC) has reached consensus regarding a recommendation to establish a campus smoke/tobacco-free policy.

I am pleased to provide endorsement of this policy, which was interpreted based on the spirit by which a submission to the SGC was provided by the All-Unit Congress. The formalization of this institution policy, the first in its history for STCC, is brought forward for a formal vote by Trustees:

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**Related, it is understood that for the purpose of this policy smoking includes any and all burning of tobacco; use of any smoking or vaping equipment; and includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, or vaporizers.**

**Context:**

The health-impacts of smoking, including second-hand smoke, are well-established and the establishment of smoke-free college campuses are also widespread. With appreciation for the committee work and diligence conducted by the All-Unit Congress, efforts to examine student and employee views at STCC specific to smoking and tobacco products yielded broad understanding, as well as support for the policy. Also, public higher education institutions in Massachusetts with smoke-free and/or smoke/tobacco-free college campuses include Holyoke Community College, Quinsigamond Community College (Worcester, MA), Berkshire Community College, and Northern Essex Community College (Lawrence and Haverhill, MA).

Enactment of this policy will occur once both collective bargaining units (MCCC & AFSCME) have been formally noticed, and any “impact” bargaining has concluded. This process was discussed during the February MACER (Management/Association Committee on Employee Relations) meeting. Revised campus signage, in conjunction with stakeholder communication, will occur in the months preceding Fall Semester, with August the target for full implementation.

As part of discussions related to this policy, a frequent question from stakeholders often has to do with enforcement. Specific to the protocols of policy implementation, the following excerpts speak to the manner by which STCC will similarly approach the matter:

“Effective implementation of the [Smoke-Free Environment] policy depends on the courtesy, respect and cooperation of all members of the campus community.”  
*(Northern Essex Community College)*

“[We] will take a community approach to educating and notifying students, faculty and staff about the new policy. This approach will be supportive, rather than confrontational. Any disciplinary measures will be reserved for repeat infractions or infractions ...consistent with applicable collective bargaining agreement procedures and the Student Code of Conduct.” *(Quinsigamond Community College)*

“Complaints concerning employees of the College should be brought to the attention of the employee’s immediate supervisor, or in the alternative to ...Human Resources. Complaints concerning students should be brought to the attention of ...the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (the College’s Student Code of Conduct Officer). Any disciplinary measures will be reserved for repeat infractions or infractions that interfere with the College’s academic or workplace needs or responsibilities.” *(Berkshire Community College)*

The college will also engage the National Park Service (Springfield Armory National Historic Site) regarding the STCC smoke/tobacco-free policy, and will seek consistency for the entirety of the shared campus and grounds.