



**Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021
Zoom Virtual Senate Chambers**

Call to Order

Monika Bubacz

Monika Bubacz called the meeting to order at 1:03PM.

Second Reading of Senate Resolution

The Citadel Faculty Senate

April 30, 2021

Statement about changes to current Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

The Citadel Faculty Senate opposes any change to the campus-wide tobacco free policy adopted in 2016. Should the proposed policy change apply to only certain students and not to others, we are concerned that restricting the use of smokeless tobacco to a small subset of cadets will be impossible to enforce. Therefore, in effect, the new policy will make smokeless tobacco available to all. Just as no cadet is allowed to use alcohol on campus, no cadet should be allowed to use tobacco on campus.

A campus-wide tobacco-free policy acknowledges that:

1. Tobacco is a highly addictive substance associated with chronic health problems. It also causes deadly cancers of the lungs, digestive tract, mouth, neck, and tongue.¹¹
2. Students need strong, principled leadership that discourages the use of tobacco products, the adverse effects of which accumulate over time. Avoiding tobacco addiction in college is especially vital to our students' future health.
3. Our programs in Health and Human Performance, Pre-Medicine, Tactical Readiness, and Nursing are best supported by a tobacco policy in line with scientific research.
4. It is essential to respect our historic campus and keep it clean of tobacco waste.

Dr. Monika Bubacz made a motion to approve the previously amended resolution. The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for discussion. Discussion points included:

- There is disagreement with some articles published in the local newspaper and elsewhere that the changes proposed by the Tobacco Committee were influenced by military culture.
- Some cadets are of legal age to use tobacco products. Tobacco waste is a separate issue. Cadets do not enjoy the same ease of movement that other college students have to use tobacco products off campus. A right should not be denied because those without rights are not following the policy.

- After a question was raised about the alcohol policy, it was stated that both alcohol and tobacco products are contraband and if cadets are found in possession of either on campus, they are in violation. The campus alcohol policy may be updated to allow alcohol at the Faculty House.
- We are trying to teach that use of tobacco products is harmful.
- Why are the proposed Tobacco Policy changes happening? We have been told that it is because the students asked for these changes. Most of us do not believe that.
- Are these proposed Tobacco policy changes for cadets or also for faculty, staff and administrators?
- There is an important difference between tobacco and alcohol. Tobacco, particularly nicotine, is highly addictive. Alcohol is dangerous, too, but tobacco becomes addictive much sooner. Leading up to the 2016 Tobacco Policy changes, we worked really hard to protect our students against the carcinogens in tobacco. Around that time, oral cancer screenings held on campus detected precancerous lesions and other tobacco-related conditions that required care. There is no logical rationale for changing the existing Tobacco Policy.

An anonymous poll of appointed/elected senators eligible to vote was held during the Zoom meeting. The results related to adopting the April 30, 2021 Resolution were as follows:

Aye – 30 senators

Nay – 5 senators

Abstentions – 6 senators

Senate voted: Passed, resolution carried.

Adjournment

Monika Bubacz

No other business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 1:22PM. The dates of Senate meetings for Fall 2021 have not been finalized yet.