

# Faculty and Staff Survey on Smoking Policy

## Executive Summary

### BACKGROUND

In February 2008, students voted on the SGA ballot by a 63% margin that they would like to see SLU limit smoking to campus parking lots and perimeters. This information was brought to the PCC in May and June 2008 and received significant support from PCC members. However, at this time, Fr. Biondi decided that more information was needed on the perspectives of the faculty and staff members at SLU.

The SLU Wellness Initiative along with Human Resources and the Department of Student Involvement sponsored and conducted a survey on the current smoking policy to SLU faculty and staff members. The survey was administered in such a way that each SLU employee could only take the survey only once. The survey was available from September 12-24, 2008.

There were 1,720 individuals that took the survey during this time. Of those who answered the demographic questions, we know these facts:

Q17. What is your employment classification at SLU?

Count	Percent	
507	30.29%	Faculty
1167	69.71%	Staff
1674		Respondents

Q18. What is your gender?

Count	Percent	
570	34.05%	Male
1104	65.95%	Female
1674		Respondents

### RESULTS

- **85.17%** believe that exposure to **secondhand smoke is a moderate to serious health hazard.**
- **52.39%** say that the **current smoking policy is working slightly well to not well at all.**
- **73.66%** believe that it is moderately to very **important to prohibit smoking on SLU property, even outdoors.**
- **74.94%** **somewhat to strongly favor** a policy that limits smoking on SLU's campus only to the parking lots and campus perimeter.
- **88.15%** **somewhat to strongly agree** that people should have a **right to breathe clean air in outdoor public places**, free from second-hand smoke.
- **53.89%** **DISAGREE** that smokers should have a right to smoke in outdoor public places, without government interference
- Over 90% of respondents said that a smoke-free campus would improve (51%) their opinion of SLU, or their opinion would not change (40%)

- **Respondents want their employer to limit smoking to a designated area outdoors (58%) or not allow any smoking outdoors at all (29.99%)**

In addition, respondents indicated that they would be strongly in favor of policies that would prohibit indoor smoking in Missouri and particularly, in the establishments around SLU.

The results indicate that 89% of participants are current nonsmokers, with 68% never smoking in the past. Of those who smoke, 64% said they smoke several times per day. The smokers also said that they were aware of the free cessation classes that SLU offers to employees (74%), and 41% of smokers said that they would take advantage of the programs if they had more details about the classes.

### ***CONCLUSION***

Faculty and staff as a group have never before been surveyed with their opinion on the current smoking policy. However, the results do strongly indicate, with no discrepancies, that SLU employees would like to see a stricter smoking policy on campus.

A very strong percentage of respondents believe that exposure to secondhand smoke is a very serious health hazard, and they believe it is very important to prohibit smoking on SLU property, even outdoors.

The survey results also indicate that employees would take advantage of smoking cessation classes if they had more details to the programs. We are recommending that more smoking cessation classes need to be offered on campus, to benefit the health of SLU employees and to give them access to the resources that they need to quit smoking. Employees who quit smoking will be more productive in the workplace, taking less smoke breaks and sick days.

SLU is not the first school to consider going smoke-free. In fact, over 100 campuses across the U.S. are already smoke-free, including outdoors. Information has already been compiled about the success of these policies and their enforcement at other schools by members of the student group at SLU, called [smoke.free.slu](http://smoke.free.slu).

We feel that the information provided by this survey should be taken as a representation of the actual sentiment of the employees at SLU, and that a policy revision to limit smoking on campus to parking lots and the campus perimeter should be made. Students, faculty and staff have all voiced their opinion on this matter, and the results are the same: the SLU community wants a smoke-free campus.