

Smoking Kills

This Association notes:

1. that smoking kills
2. that smoking is addictive and causes premature death, sickness, misery and disease
3. that 12,500+ people a year die of smoking in Scotland alone; being 1 in every 4 deaths (Source: NHS)
4. that it is impossible to safely 'smoke in moderation' without likely adverse health effects
5. that the number of individuals who smoke is increasing in the demographic of women aged 15-25
6. that passive smoking/second-hand smoke can contribute to premature death, sickness, misery and disease
7. that EUSA currently trades in tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products from its retail outlets
8. that it profits from the sale of these products, as a part of its considerably wider retail portfolio
9. that it currently operates unmanned cigarette vending machines which could be accessed by under-18s
10. that by trading in these products it is profiting from, promoting and helping facilitate smoking; and therefore profiting from, promoting and helping facilitate premature death, sickness, misery and disease
11. the Government and NHS attempts to combat smoking, both amongst the young and amongst society in general; including the banning of smoking indoors, and measures increasing the smoking retail age to 18

This Association believes:

1. that it should not profit from, promote or help facilitate smoking
2. that it should not profit from, promote or help facilitate premature death, sickness, misery and disease
3. that many companies which produce tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products, profit from a trade in premature death, sickness, misery and disease; and that the conduct of certain companies in the developing world has led to significant criticism and concern, from organisations including the UN, WHO and BMJ
4. that it is immoral for EUSA to profit from smoking or from premature death, sickness, misery and disease
5. that attempts to retail tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products at cost-price, if not in the first instance illegal, would undercut private commercial outlets; would thus further promote and encourage smoking; and would thus further promote and help facilitate premature death, sickness, misery and disease
6. that attempts to retail at below cost-price, if not in the first instance illegal, would mean subsidy of smoking
7. that private commercial outlets in the Edinburgh area will continue to retail tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products, regardless of any cessation from EUSA (unless or until further regulated by government)
8. that it is therefore improper, unacceptable, indecent and immoral for EUSA to continue to trade in tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products; and that ending this trade should be seen as a matter of urgency
9. that it should accordingly desist entirely from its trade in tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products
10. that it should support students who wish to give up smoking

This Association resolves:

1. to entirely cease the sale of tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products from its outlets; and to therefore cease its profit from and trade in smoking, and in premature death, sickness, misery and disease
2. to mandate 'as appropriate and suitable the Association Executive, Finance Committee, SRC, and/or Committee of Management' (hereafter 'the Association Executive, etc.')
- (a) that by midnight on 20th December 2009, it will remove/render unusable all cigarette vending machines on its premises, and remove all tobacco products from non-retail outlets (e.g. bars)
- (b) that from midnight on 28th March 2010, it will desist entirely from the purchase of all tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco-related products for the purpose of subsequent retail
- (c) that 'the Association Executive, etc.' nevertheless be mandated as relevant to renegotiate commercial contracts in order to achieve (a) and (b); and that the Committee of Management may extend that deadline of 20th December 2009 and/or of 28th March 2010, if contractually or commercially required, provided such extension is for no longer than absolutely necessary
- (d) that from midnight on 30th May 2010, it will entirely cease to trade in any tobacco, cigarettes or tobacco-related products from any of its retail outlets, or in any other form whatsoever
- (e) that the Committee of Management may extend that deadline of 30th May 2010, if contractually or commercially required, provided such extension is for no longer than absolutely necessary
- (f) that it shall request exemption from any NUSSL activity on tobacco purchasing; and that its NUSSL representatives shall be mandated to pursue such exemptions if not readily accepted
- (g) that its NUS delegates be mandated to support smoking prevention campaigns run by NUS
3. to mandate 'the Association Executive, etc.' to publicise details of the above prior to scheduled implementation
4. to mandate the Association Executive to monitor the application of the above 2. in their EUSA Annual Report
5. to mandate the Committee of Management to retail nicotine replacement products, if/as it adjudges beneficial
6. to mandate the Association Executive and SRC to promote the availability of services which provide support, information and advice to students who wish to give up smoking; and to continue to support the efforts of the University Medical Service, National Health Service, and other government, NGO and charitable bodies who support and assist those attempting to give up smoking, along with their families, friends and dependants