



# California University of Pennsylvania

## **POLICY: SMOKING ON UNIVERSITY PROPERTY**

### **A. Purpose & Scope:**

The purpose of this policy is to address smoking on campus and pertains to students, faculty, staff, administrators and guests to the University.

### **B. Definition(s):**

N/A

### **C. Policy:**

California University of PA will be in compliance with the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act.

Therefore, all campus buildings, including residence halls, are smoke-free buildings. Smoking is not permitted indoors. Electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes and similar devices are also prohibited from being used in all campus buildings, including residence halls.

Outdoor smoking is permitted. However, no smoking is allowed within 25 feet of a building entrance.

### **D. Procedure(s):**

N/A

### **E. Effective date:** Immediately

**Adopted: June 9, 2015**

by: President's Cabinet

**Amended Date:**

## **Background Information:**

The PA Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in public buildings, but because electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes, vape pipes, hookah pens, etc. do not contain tobacco, these are not specifically banned by the Act. The *proposed* University smoking policy adds this restriction by including e-cigarettes and similar devices to the list of items that may be used only in outdoor areas.

The potential health hazards associated with electronic smoking devices are not completely understood at this point, but it is known that they contain harmful chemicals and the amount of nicotine they contain is not regulated. Some studies of the vapor created by these devices suggest that they deliver a high level of nanoparticles which can be linked to lung inflammation, asthma, heart disease, and other ailments. The solvents (like glycerin and propylene glycol) in which the nicotine and flavorings are dissolved can be found in the vapor and can transform into other chemicals such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. Some studies exist describing the health effects of these devices for the user; even fewer have studied the “second-hand” effect. Most health experts agree that these devices have not been sufficiently tested for safety.

In the past several months, the University has experienced five false alarms in residence halls where the vapor from e-cigarettes was enough to set off the smoke detector in the student rooms. Other State System schools have also had false alarms due to the vapor from these devices. Many universities are banning their use indoors.

In addition, the PA Clean Indoor Air Act does not address smoking outdoors around the entrances to buildings. There is no defined distance from building entrances where smoking is prohibited in the Act. Currently, the residence halls on campus have a policy that dictates a 25-foot perimeter from the building entrances where smoking is prohibited. The *proposed* policy extends that same restriction to all campus buildings.

*May 1, 2015*