



Photo by Richard Clark

Ruth Garvey-Nix, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, Joe Wert, associate professor of political science, Flo Gonya, SGA president and general studies senior and Tom Kotulak, associate professor of political science, discussed student's concerns about the smoking policy.

Students ask panel about smoking policy

Panelists sit on both sides of the issue

By RICHARD CLARK
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The smoking ban at IU Southeast has provoked many students to question why the ban was adopted and how it is going to be implemented. A forum was held discussing this issue on Nov. 28 on the third floor of the IUS Library.

The forum was sponsored by the IUS Student Civil Liberties Union in conjunction with the Student Government Association, the IUS College Democrats and IUS College Republicans.

A panel of five faculty and staff members was present at the forum. James Kauffman, professor of speech communication, Steve Taksar, vice chancellor of administration and finance, Ruth Garvey-Nix, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, Flo Gonya, president of SGA and Tom Kotulak, associate professor of political science. Joe Wert, professor of political science, was the panel moderator.

Andrew Owen, president of the Student Civil Liberties Union, opened the meeting to the nearly 40 in attendance by saying the smoking ban is an issue that students and faculty at IU Southeast have strong opinions on.

Kauffman was the first panelist to speak. He said he was asked to form a committee in October 2005 to examine the smoking issue and how other campuses in the area were dealing with it.

He mentioned a survey, conducted among students, with 600 responses returned. A decision was later made by the outgoing IU president and the IU Bloomington Board of Trustees to make all the IU campuses smoke-free.

"But then other issues

came up," Kauffman said. "Like how do you deal with visitors coming to a ballgame here?"

Garvey-Nix mentioned that infractions against the ban would be handled through the IU Book of Student Conduct.

"The smoking ban varies from campus to campus," Garvey-Nix said. "Some campuses even ban it in vehicles."

Garvey-Nix emphasized the notion that with regard to infractions, the judicial policy is supposed to be educational and not punitive.

"I have not personally received any reports about students breaking the smoking ban," Garvey-Nix said.

She did point out two construction workers on campus were dismissed from their job for disobeying the ban.

Kotulak was one panelist who questioned the validity of the ban. He said that while promoting good health is a laudable objective, he had three levels of complaint about the ban: practical, philosophical and legal.

"There should be incentives to keep people on campus," Kotulak said. "But with the smoking ban the opposite is being achieved."

Kotulak also mentioned the creation of a hostile environment on campus because of the smoking ban. He recounted an incident in the parking lot where some of his students were harassed for smoking by a van full of youths who were later identified as high school students.

"They were yelling obscenities at my students," Kotulak said.

Kotulak brought up the subject of personal autonomy and how the ban brings back the prospect of students not being treated as adults.

Another example he brought up was the arrogance of someone lecturing a handicapped student who was smoking in his wheelchair in the parking lot.

"That individual doesn't drive," Kotulak said. "The wheelchair is his only means of transportation here."

'Only 16 percent of those surveyed wanted a change in the policy. "That is no mandate for a smoking ban.'

Magdalena Herdoiza-Estevéz
associate professor
education

Kotulak criticized the survey taken of IUS students about smoking.

"Only 16 percent of those surveyed wanted a change in the policy," Kotulak said. "That is no mandate for a smoking ban."

Gonya mentioned a recent survey the SGA did about the smoking ban.

"We got a 50-50 response," Gonya said. "About half supported the ban and half didn't."

She said the SGA supported the concept of huts for smokers where non-smokers wouldn't be bothered.

"I think this would be a great compromise," Gonya said.

She urged students who are not happy with the ban to e-mail the Board of Trustees at IU Bloomington. "The Board of Trustees would have to vote to approve any smoking huts," Gonya said.

Several students had a chance to voice their opinion on the issue. Suzanne Siebert, secondary education junior, mentioned she was one of the students harassed in the parking lot while she was smoking.

"For the first time in my life I felt discriminated against," Siebert said. "It's hard for me to feel a part of the IUS community because of the smoking ban."

Shawn Kalwait, IUS student, questioned the policy of using students to report smoking violators.

"What if one student has a grudge against another one," Kalwait said. "Shouldn't the police who are impartial be enforcing this?"

Garvey-Nix said the policy does allow for car windows to be open.

"There is no intent to implement a stricter policy

here," Garvey-Nix said.

Kauffman said the main reason for the ban was because of students smoking by the outside doors, but Gonya contended the real problem was that the cigarette disposals were just 7 feet from the doors.

"You can't blame the students for that," Gonya said. "They're not the ones who placed the disposals that close to the doors."

Sarah Morgan, political science senior, wanted to know what the real purpose of the ban was.

"I don't think it is the job of the university to make a judgment call on behavior relating to one's health," she said.

Sera Bonnett-Bredt, political science junior, asked if e-mails to the Board of Trustees could prevent another top-down policy from being implemented again.

Gonya said she would prefer each campus be given more autonomy in making its rules such as the smoking ban.

"One size doesn't necessarily fit all," Gonya said.

Gonya also mentioned the University of Maine, which has the highest percentage of smokers on any United States campus.

"Their smoking ban was implemented over a three year period, unlike the one here at IUS," Gonya said. "I sent their report to the Board of Trustees."

Linda Morton, general studies sophomore, mentioned the absurdity of political correctness being carried to extremes.

"I was told that a picture of Ernie Pyle was airbrushed at IU Bloomington because some faculty members disliked him smoking

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Bill reviewed, butterfly way station advised

By JEROD CLAPP
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The Student Government Association read a bill that was several weeks in the making.

A bill to reimburse the Music Appreciation Club \$92.46 for their Halloween party that was held on Oct. 31 was presented.

Originally, the bill was sponsored by Jonathan Sifers, elementary education sophomore, but he resigned his senate position before Thanksgiving recess.

Joe Taflinger, general studies senior, said the bill should be ready to vote on next week.

"They covered all their bases, the best I could figure," Taflinger said.

Billy Roby, senator and secondary education freshman, said he met with Dennis Simon, IUS Police chief, about putting parking spaces for motorcycles in the parking lots near Crestview Hall.

Roby said Simon wouldn't be able to put parking spots for motorcycles there exclusively for the sake of convenience.

Also, Roby said his meeting with Simon clarified part of the smoking policy. The policy does not state that windows must be rolled up in a vehicle, but smoking in parking lots must be done in an enclosed vehicle.

Stevie Benge, Environmental Conservation Organization president and mathematics junior, gave a suggestion to SGA that they help plant milkweed on campus for Earth Day next year. Monarch butterflies feed on

milkweed plants in the larval stage.

Benge said the plants would serve as monarch butterfly way stations, which are used to give the butterflies a place to lay their eggs.

Roby is also working with Benge on expanding the recycling program on campus. Roby said the program may be put in place as early as next spring, but he's still working on the details.

In other business, Taflinger said he was trying to look into using video teleconference equipment on campus to help get students and community members in touch with family members who are serving in the military overseas.

Taflinger said he hopes to get the plan up and running by next spring.

"It's something we could continue to do," Taflinger said. "It's just an idea. If we could get it to work, we could set up a template for it."

Sandy Turpin, chief justice and general studies senior, said 51 parking appeals were reviewed. She said 36 were denied, 14 were approved and one had missed the one week deadline for submission for review.

Richard Young, senate chair and political science sophomore, suggested that SGA consider putting information in the tickets about how to go through the appeals process.

Turpin said the IUS Police may be looking into cracking down more repeat parking offenders. She said there may be more severe penalties, such as using a boot to immobilize a vehicle.

New emergency system coming

By ALYSSA BROWN
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In the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings earlier this year, universities around the country are implementing new emergency notification systems. These systems are designed to quickly inform students, faculty and staff in the event of an emergency.

IU Southeast announced that its new system, provided by Connect-ED, a Web-based communication service, went into effect on Nov. 8. In the event of school closings or delays due to weather, students, faculty and staff will receive an email, voice-mail or text message with the most current information available.

"IU was looking at this type of program before Virginia Tech, but that incident made everyone speed up," Larry Mand, vice chancellor for Information Technology and community engagement, said. "Hopefully there won't be any events that tragic, just weather-related notifications."

"The Connect-ED system is the same system used by many other universities, including Notre Dame,"

'TU was looking at this type of program before Virginia Tech, but that incident made everyone speed up.'

Larry Mand
vice chancellor
Information Technology

Mand said.

In the event of an emergency like the one at Virginia Tech, messages would be sent out informing people off campus not to come to campus. Those people already on campus would be given different instructions.

Mand said the university is using other types of technology to convey messages on campus such as in-classroom phones and campus loud speakers.

"We're excited about

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