

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA  
FACULTY SENATE – FACULTY AND STAFF SURVEY  
TOBACCO POLICY SURVEY REPORT**

December 1, 2014

Prepared by the USA Polling Group

## **Faculty/Staff Tobacco Policy Survey – Survey Methodology**

This survey was conducted by the University of South Alabama Polling Group. The USA Polling Group was founded in 1992. Since then, the activities of the polling group have included a wide variety of internally and externally funded research projects including anthropology, community relations, criminal justice, educational administration, healthcare, marketing, public administration, and sociology. Over the course of its history the polling group has conducted well over 600 surveys for a variety of clients.

For Internet/E-mail surveys, the USA Polling Group uses Qualtrics Online survey software for the development and deployment of surveys. This survey software system is used extensively by academic institutions and provides a level of control over the survey that is not found in many other online survey software packages.

Approval for the survey was obtained through USA's IRB board on 10/16/2014. Prior to the survey an advertisement was placed on Tuesday 10/28/2014 in the Vanguard, the campus newspaper, to provide advance notice that the survey would be forthcoming. Further, on Thursday 10/30/2014 an E-mail was sent from the University President's Office to provide a direct advance notice to university faculty and staff.

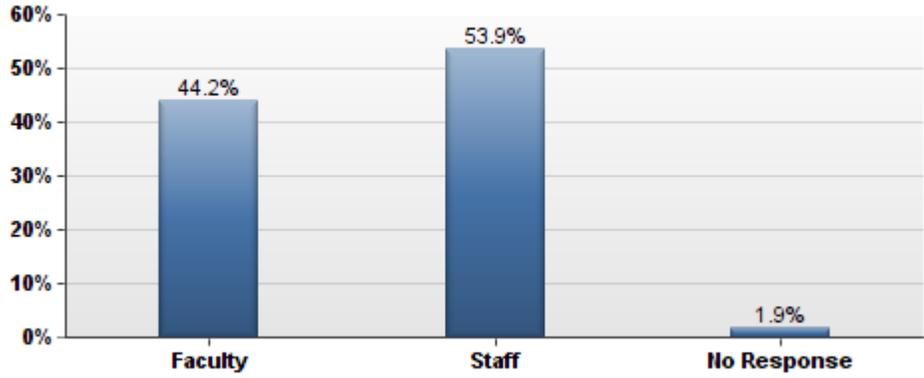
The survey was conducted via the Internet using E-mail invitations with a link to the survey. In accordance with standard survey protocols respondent IP addresses were restricted to minimize the potential for ballot stuffing given the sensitivity of the issue. The initial E-mail was sent on November 3, 2014. Subsequent reminders were sent on November 10, and November 17, 2014. In each case the original E-mail and reminders were sent on Mondays to maximize the potential time for response before the weekend intervened. The last survey collected was on November 20, 2014 and the survey was officially closed on November 21, 2014.

A total of 2,188 E-mails were sent to faculty and staff on the university main campus and on the Baldwin County campus. Since the USA Health System is working on its own unique tobacco policy, health system employees were not interviewed regarding the campus policy. A total of 956 faculty and staff responded to the survey for a response rate of 43.7%. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.38%.

In addition to the survey responses, a number of interested students, faculty, and staff contacted myself or SuzAnne Robbins with the USA IRB office. In most cases these were interested parties offering their opinions or additional information regarding how they felt the university should address any possible tobacco policy changes. In each case these respondents were assured that their comments would be included with the survey findings. Consequently, following the survey findings there is a section detailing these comments.

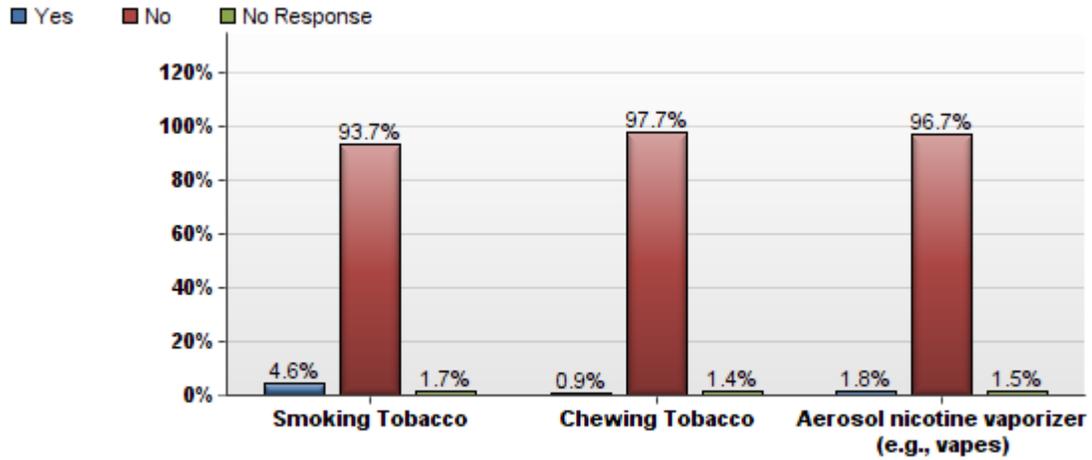
**Faculty/Staff Tobacco Policy Survey – Survey Findings**

**1. Are you faculty or staff?**



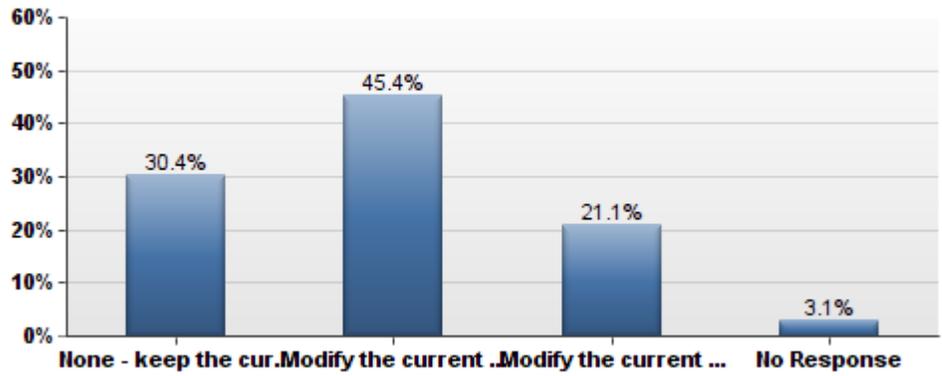
#	Answer	Response	%
1	Faculty	423	44%
2	Staff	515	54%
9	No Response	18	2%
	Total	956	100%

## 2. Do you currently use any of the following tobacco/nicotine products?



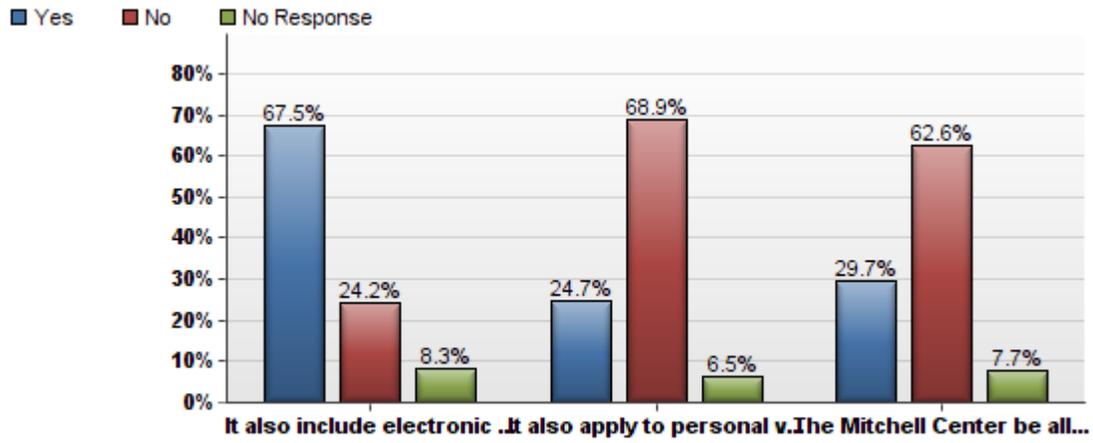
#	Question	Yes	No	No Response	Total Responses	Mean
1	Smoking Tobacco	44	889	16	949	2.07
2	Chewing Tobacco	8	909	13	930	2.09
3	Aerosol nicotine vaporizer (e.g., vapes)	17	901	14	932	2.09

**3. Which of the following modifications to the current tobacco policy should the University of South Alabama adopt?**



#	Answer		Response	%
1	None - keep the current policy		290	30%
2	Modify the current policy to make all campuses 100% tobacco/nicotine free but allow for smoking and the use of tobacco/nicotine products inside of personal vehicles.		433	45%
3	Modify the current policy to make all campuses 100% tobacco/nicotine free - no exceptions, including no smoking or using tobacco/nicotine products inside of personal vehicles.		201	21%
9	No Response		30	3%
	Total		954	100%

#### 4. If a new tobacco/nicotine policy is adopted, should . .



#	Question	Yes	No	No Response	Total Responses	Mean
1	It also include electronic aerosol nicotine vaporizers (e.g., "vapes" or e-cigarettes)?	639	229	79	947	1.41
2	It also apply to personal vehicles driven on campus?	232	648	61	941	1.82
3	The Mitchell Center be allowed to establish smoking permitted room(s) for special events not necessarily associated with the University?	281	593	73	947	1.78