Smoke Free Campus Initiative: Opinion Survey about Tobacco Use and Exposure at Texas State University-San Marcos IRB Proposal

1. Students of Texas State University-San Marcos will be recruited through the Associated Student Government (ASG) Smoking Forum email. Additionally, the ASG will have a link to the survey on the ASG web page. If participants decide to complete the online survey, they will answer questions regarding their attitudes, perceptions, beliefs, and experiences regarding smoking on the Texas State University campus.

2. Students will voluntarily take the survey via e-mail or through the ASG web page. A web site link will be provided in the e-mail for participants to locate the online survey or students will locate the link on the ASG web page. The students will click on the link and an electronic consent form will be presented to participants before taking the online survey. The participants will click the electronic consent form box to access the online survey. In addition, student will have to click another electronic box to certify that they are 18 years or older to access the online survey. All information obtained will be kept confidential and accessed by researchers Brittany Rosen (Eta Sigma Gamma-Delta Chi chapter), Sally Moody (Eta Sigma Gamma-Delta Chi chapter), Kelly Wilson, Ph.D. (Eta Sigma-Delta Chi chapter), Assistant Professor of Health Education at Texas State University, and Jeff Housman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Health Education at Texas State University.

3. Students will voluntarily complete the online survey, consisting of 24 questions and take about 10 minutes to complete. Permission was obtained from the University of Minnesota to utilize "Opinion Survey on Tobacco Use and Exposure at University Minnesota-Twin Cities Campus." All data obtained from participants will remain confidential between researchers and stored in an online database. The Texas State University Student Health Center phone number was provided at the end of the electronic consent form for students with questions or concerns about tobacco.

4. There are no potential physical risks for the participants. The survey does not involve any form of treatment, coercion, deception, or invasive procedures. There are no legal risks for participants because there are no items on the survey involving legal issues. The social risks of this study are minimal. A participant might be concerned about the confidentiality of his/her responses. Because of this potential risk participants will be informed that all information will remain confidential and participation in the survey is voluntary. The data collected will be stored and protected in an online database for no more than 2 years. The psychological risk of participating in the survey is minimal. The survey may cause participants to reflect on their opinions and exposure to tobacco on campus.

5. Procedures for minimizing risks will include clearly stating in the electronic consent form all information will remain confidential, and the study is voluntary allowing participants to stop the online survey at any time. In addition, the end of the electronic consent form will provide the Texas State University Student Health Center phone number for students with questions or concerns about tobacco.

6. Potential benefits gained by the participants will include the opportunity to express personal opinions about smoking on Texas State University campus. There is little information on Texas State University students’ opinions and exposure to smoking tobacco on campus. Based on the data collected, Texas State University could benefit from this study by providing direction to the Student Health Center, in developing programs to address smoking cessation and to the Texas State University Associated Student Government in promoting a smoke free campus. The data will impact public and environmental health on campus. Other colleges and universities could benefit from the study by using the data to address similar issues regarding smoking on their campus.

7. After completion of the study, participants will have the opportunity to contact the researchers involved in this study to receive the results. All email addresses will be provided in the electronic consent form.

8. The potential risks involved in this study are virtually none and the anticipated benefits to the participants, society, Texas State University's Associated Student Government, and the health education field are considered significant. The data gathered from this study will provide insight into college students' opinions regarding a smoke free campus.

9. There are no sites/agencies used in this study.

10. Eta Sigma Gamma members are assisting Associated Student Government members by gathering data for the members to be utilized to begin an initiative for a smoke free campus at Texas State University. The Eta Sigma Gamma-Delta Chi Faculty Advisor is Dr. Kelly Wilson, Assistant Professor in the Health Education Division at Texas State University.

11. Dr. Kelly Wilson has approved all documents submitted to the Institutional Review Board at Texas State University.

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12. This study has not been reviewed or approved by another IRB.

13. Individuals who will have access to the results during the study are Brittany Rosen, Sally Moody, Dr. Kelly Wilson, and Dr. Jeff Housman. Dr. Jeff Housman will have access to data because of his role as co-researcher and access to the online survey account. After the results of this study are complete, they will be submitted to the Texas State University’s Student Government for the proposal of a smoke free campus.