

Clean Air Working Group Proposed Clean Air Strategy

GFC

February 22, 2021

Kevin Friese (DoS) and Andrew Leitch (IARM)

GFC Motion (March, 2018)

GFC asked university administration to:

develop a clean air strategy to minimize student, staff, and faculty exposure to smoke from cigarettes, inhaled cannabis, vapes and hookah pipes.*

* reduce (something, especially something unwanted or unpleasant) to the smallest possible** amount or degree.

** able to be done; within the power or capacity of someone or something

The working group began to meet February, 2019

Campus Saint Jean
Dean of Students
Enterprise Square
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
First Peoples' House

Graduate Students' Association
Non Academic Staff Association
PDF Association
Risk Management Services (including EHS)
School of Public Health

South Campus
Students' Union
University Relations

- Aman Lit, Acting Manager Special Projects, Ancillary Services
- Andre Bourgeois, Vice-President Student Life, Students' Union
- Andrew Leitch, Director, ERM Programs, Risk Management Services (Co-chair)
- Denis Fontaine, Assistant Dean Academic Administration, Campus Saint Jean
- Elizabeth Johannsen, President, Non-Academic Staff Association
- Fahed Elian, Vice-President Student Services, Graduate Students' Association
- Greg Lembke, Associate Director/South Campus, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport & Recreation

- Giles Rieger, Human Resource Services
- Jillian Hamilton, Issues and Strategic Communications Manager, Vice-President University Relations
- Kevin Friese, Assistant Dean, Health & Wellness, Office of the Dean of Students (Co-chair)
- Les Hagen, Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health
- Michael Sean McMurty, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
- Michael Splinter, Assistant Dean Finance & Operations, Faculty of Extension
- Nadine Badry, Supervisor & NASA Representative, School of Business
- Patrick Patterson, Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Public Health
- Randal Nickel, Executive Director Student Life, Augustana Campus
- Wendy Doughty, Assistant Dean of Students, Student Success

Principles established by the working group

- The university acknowledges that **tobacco causes illness and death** and that reducing its use serves the health interests of our community and beyond
- Members of our **community should be protected from the nuisance and possible health effects** associated with second hand smoke and vapour
- Any effort to reduce smoking on campuses **should take a harm reduction approach** designed to reduce the negative consequences of smoking and vaping while maintaining an attitude of respect and non-judgement toward those who use tobacco and related products
- Any effort to reduce smoking on campuses **should promote supports and services to help those who are trying to quit**
- For the purposes of this strategy, **vaping will be treated the same way as the associated substance** when inhaled.

Working group activities

- Met 12 times
- Evaluated policies of peer institutions
- Surveyed peer institutions on lessons learned (through School of Public Health)
- Literature summary: enforcement of tobacco control policies (Patrick Patterson, Public Health)
- Surveyed our community
- One site visit (Western)
- Received legal opinion re: labour relations perspective on a smoking ban -- Office of General Counsel
- Presented to Students' Council; met with NASA
- Updated GFC twice
- Updated PEC-O twice

95 Canadian universities and colleges with completely smoke-free campuses, including four of our peers in the U15.

U15 MEMBERS



Survey was live first three weeks of February, 2020

Nine questions plus invitation to comment



Questions Responses 3,524



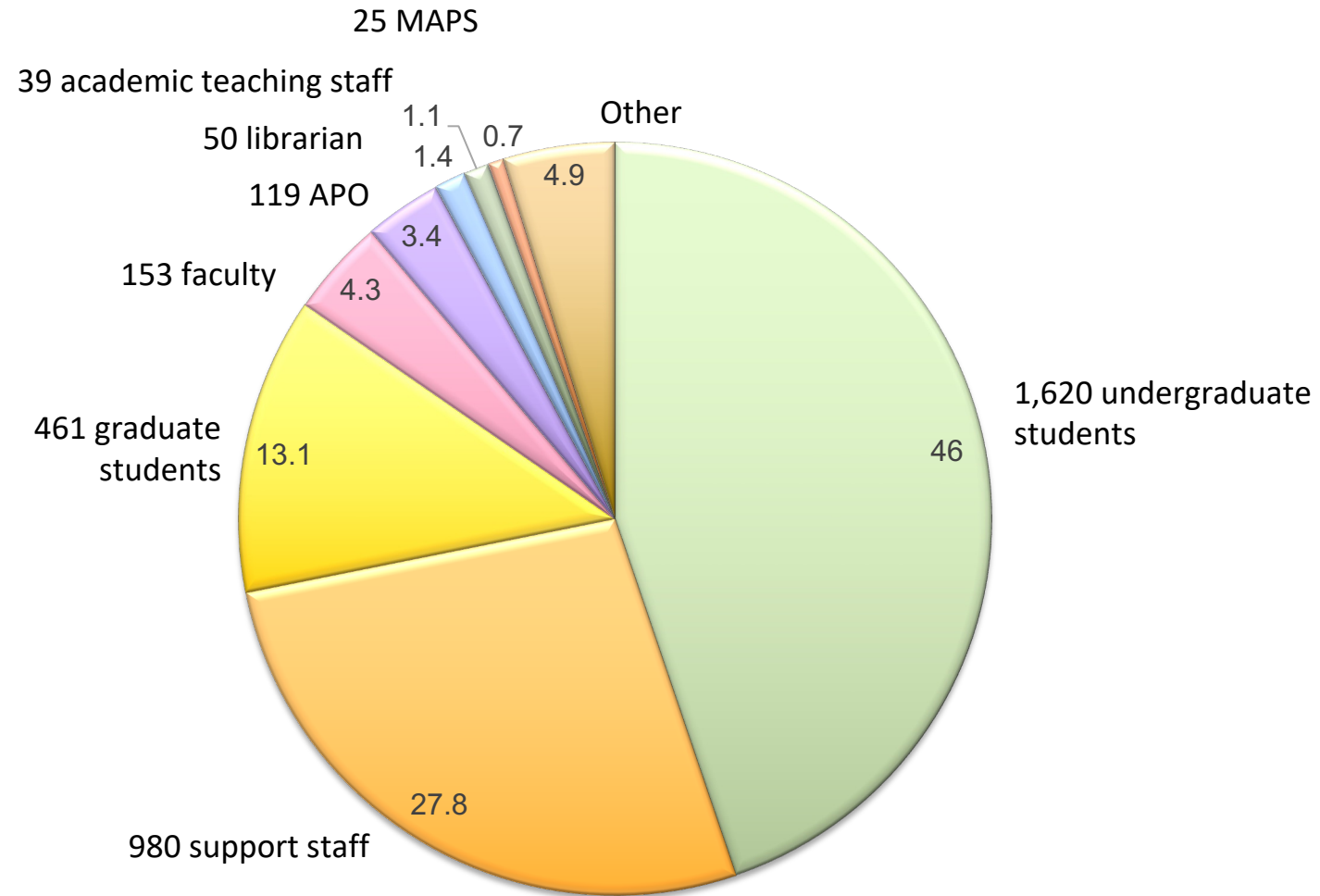
Section 1 of 3

Campus Smoking and Vaping Survey

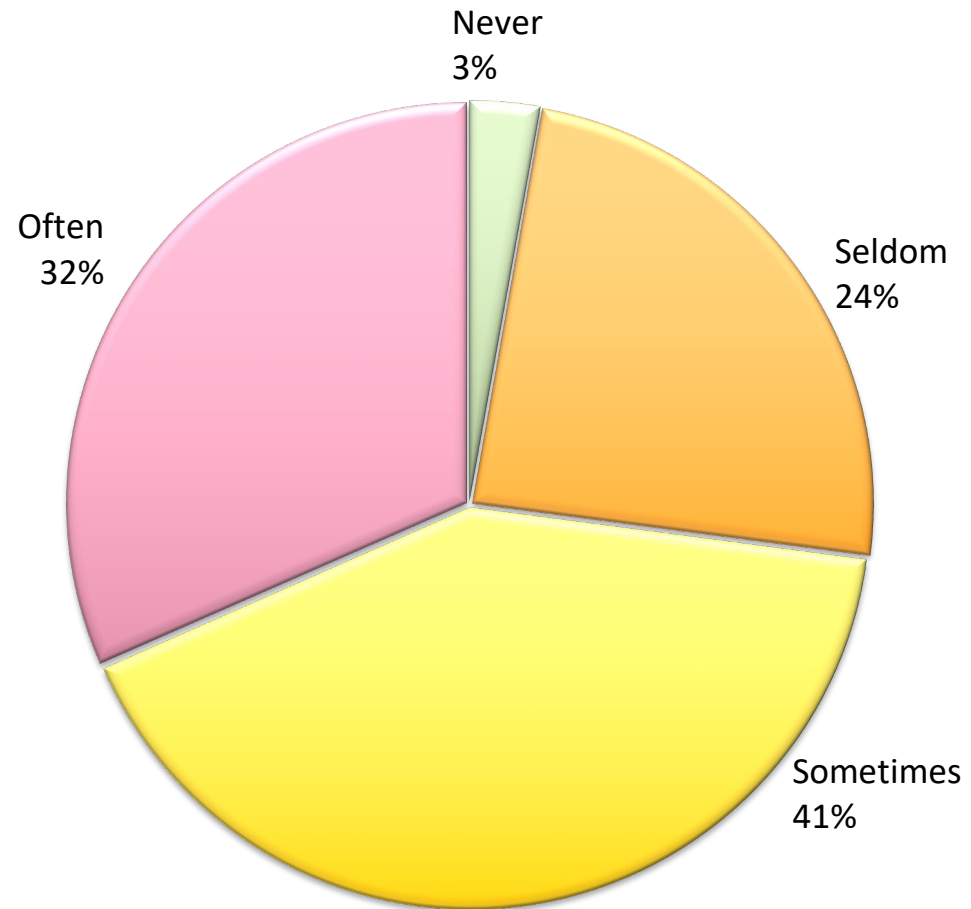
Last year the university's General Faculties Council asked administration to come up with a strategy to minimize student, staff and faculty exposure to smoke and vapour from cigarettes, inhaled cannabis, vapes and hookah pipes on University of Alberta campuses.

The Provost asked a working group representing students, faculty and staff to consider options. The group concluded that a strategy would require significantly increased limits to smoking and vaping on U of A campuses, up to making the university completely smoke-free and vape-free. (Today, smoking and vaping is allowed in most outdoor locations, as long as it's not within ten metres of doors, windows that open, and air intake vents. Cannabis smoking and vaping is permitted in specific locations.) Please note that, whatever is decided, the university will honour its responsibility to accommodate ceremonial use of tobacco.

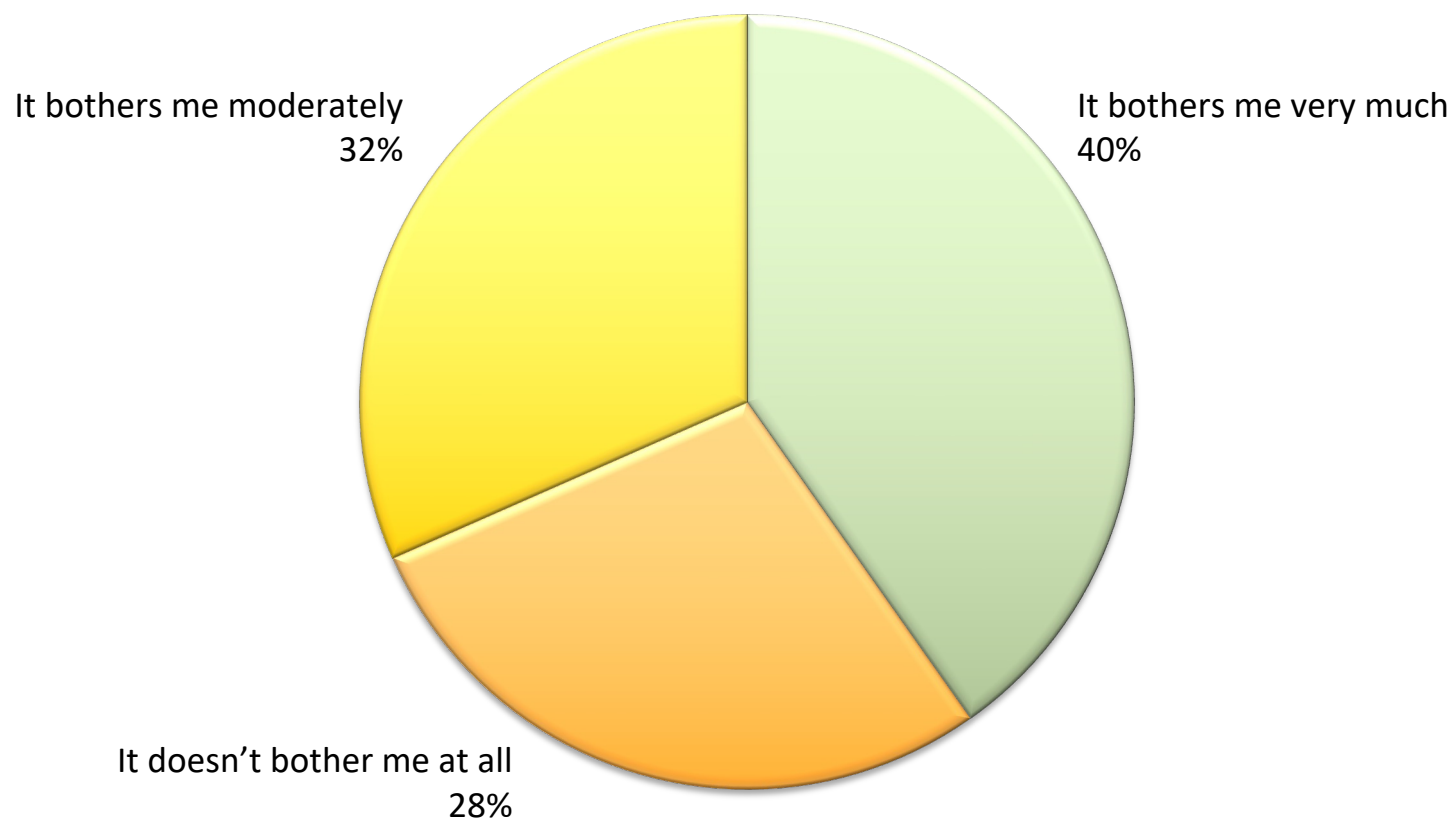
Respondents by percentage and number per category (total 3,519)



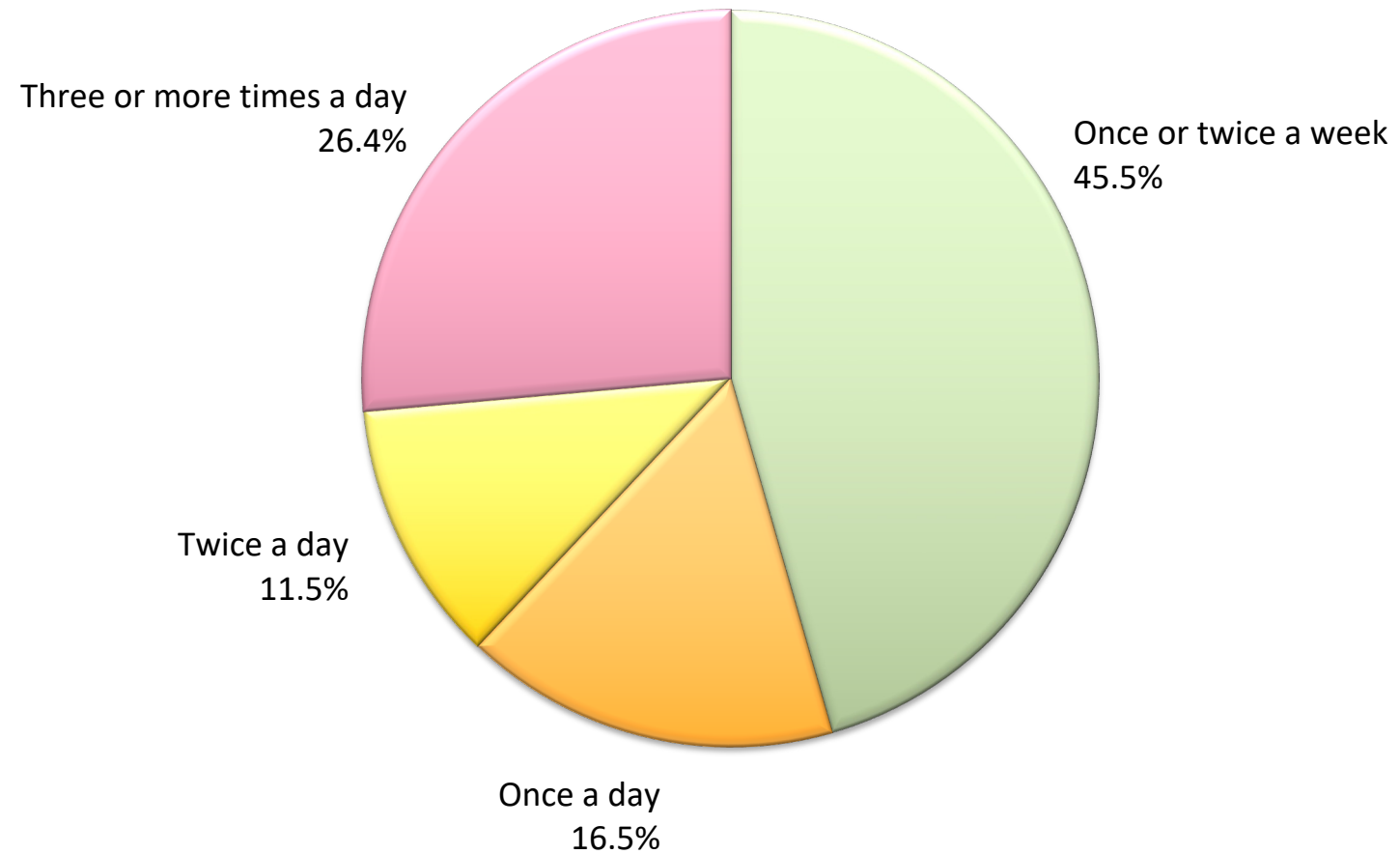
How frequently do you notice people smoking on campus?



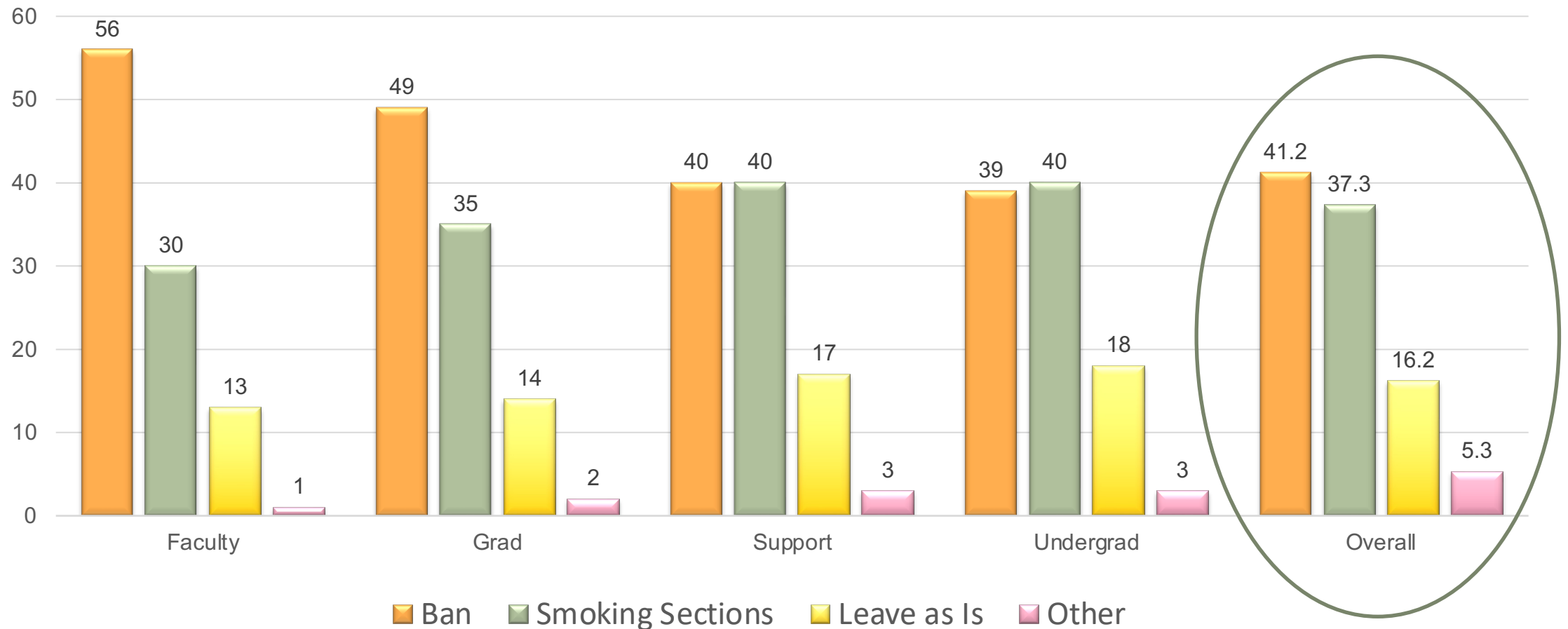
Which best describes your experience with second hand smoke and vapour on campus?



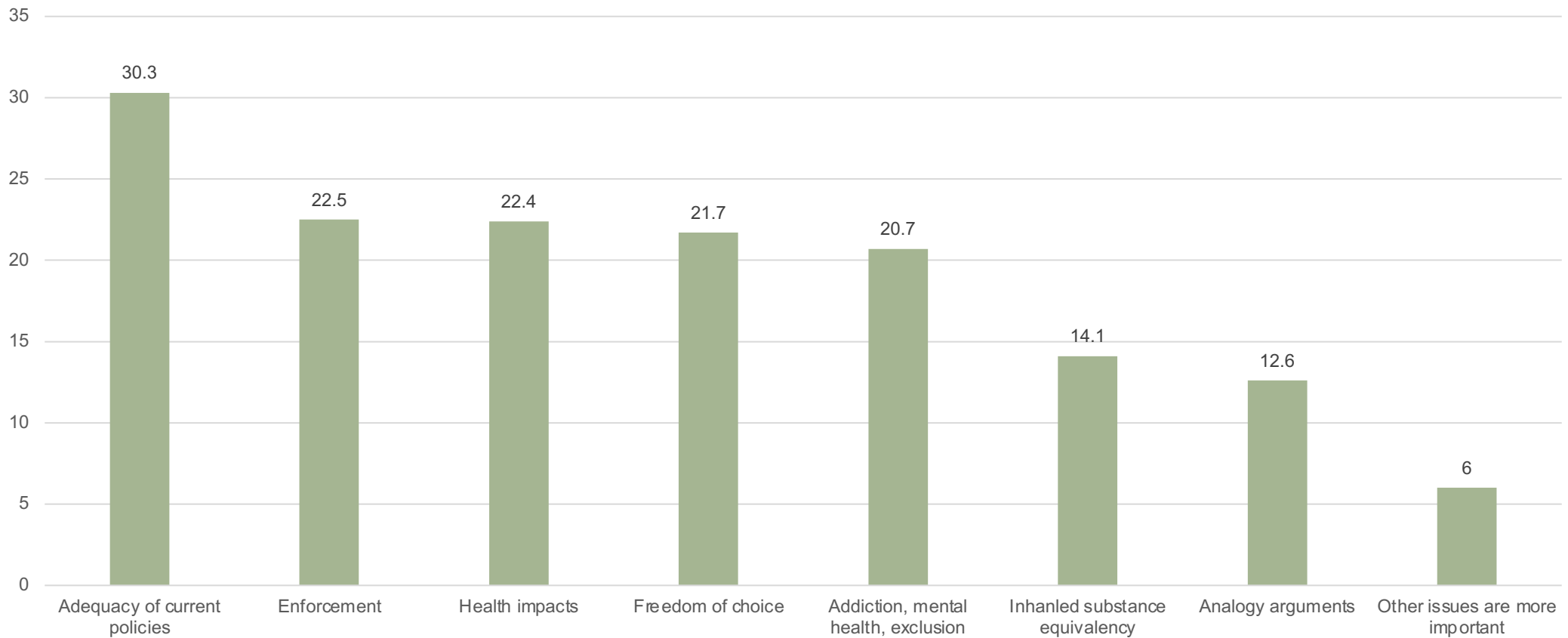
How often do you smoke or vape on campus? (total 382)



Would you support a completely smoke-free and vape-free campus? Faculty, graduate student, support staff, undergraduate, overall



Common themes in comments (% total, n=844)



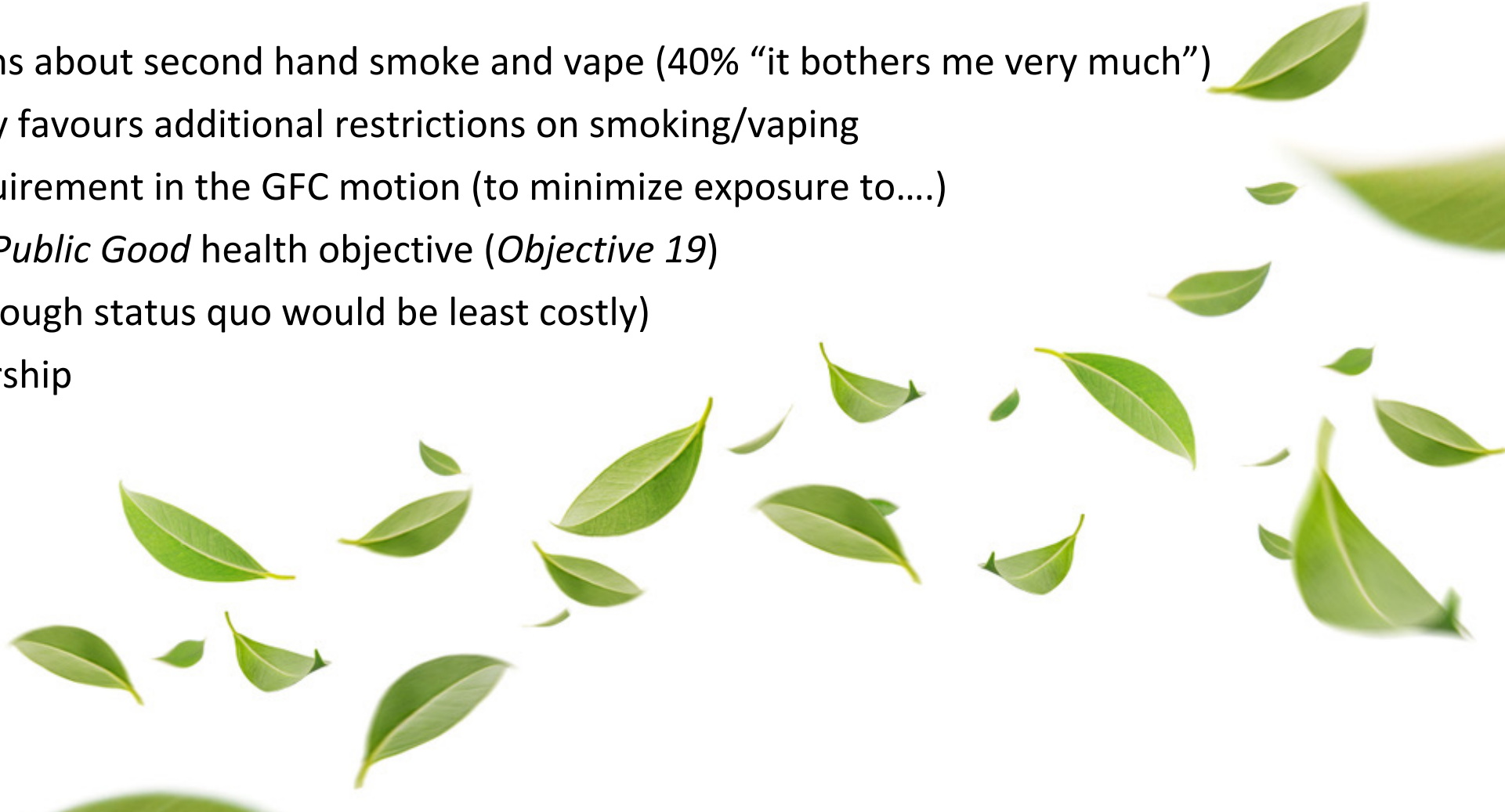
Observations about the comments

Overall, comments show that a majority of survey respondents at the University of Alberta in all role categories do not smoke or vape on campus and **many are concerned about possible health impacts and the inability of current policies prevent their exposure to smoke or vape against their will.**

This analysis suggests that **the University of Alberta community, as a whole, strongly favours some form of additional restrictions on smoking and vaping** ... a policy to implement designated areas would likely attract widespread support, because of its greater apparent feasibility.

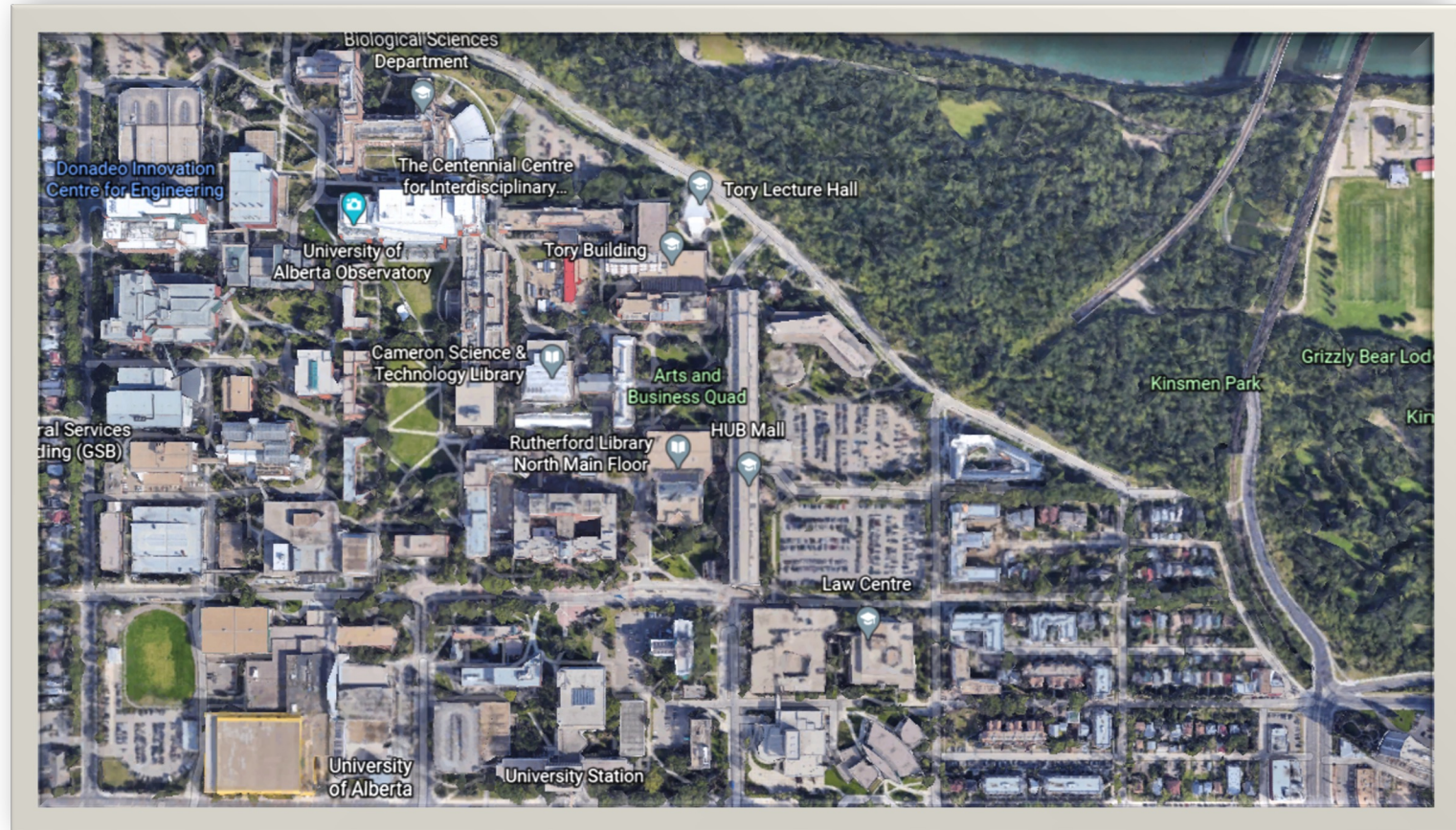
A policy to implement a campus-wide ban has support across role categories, although not held by a majority overall

How the working group landed on its recommendation

- Community concerns about second hand smoke and vape (40% “it bothers me very much”)
 - Community strongly favours additional restrictions on smoking/vaping
 - Best meets the requirement in the GFC motion (to minimize exposure to....)
 - Aligns with *For the Public Good* health objective (*Objective 19*)
 - Reasonable cost (though status quo would be least costly)
 - Public health leadership
- 

Why not designated areas?

- Research shows designated areas have more compliance issues
- Change management and cost
- Extreme difficulty identifying locations on our dense campuses (especially N Campus) away from non-users, safe, accessible all year, satisfy smokers *and* vapers



The working group recommends that the University of Alberta prohibit smoking and vaping of all products on all campuses effective September 1, 2021.

