CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY SMOKE-FREE POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) recognises that a healthy, safe, and clean environment is essential for learning, teaching, working, and living across all University campuses.

The University is committed to protecting its staff, students, contractors, and visitors from the well-documented health hazards associated with exposure to secondhand smoke, environmental tobacco pollution, and related combustion/aerosol emissions.

This Policy establishes a mandatory smoke-free environment across all University lands, buildings, facilities, vehicles, and operational areas, regulating smoking and tobacco use to preserve public health, reduce fire hazards, and promote wellness.

The Policy operates consistently with the National Tobacco Control Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, federal and state environmental health regulations, the University's enabling statutory framework, regulations, conditions of service, and global health recommendations (WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- establish a completely smoke-free campus environment across all COOU locations;
- protect all members of the University community and visitors from involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke;
- mitigate fire hazards, litter, and facility maintenance costs associated with tobacco waste;
- prohibit the sale, distribution, promotion, and advertising of tobacco and related smoking products on campus;
- support tobacco cessation initiatives and health education for interested staff and students;
- provide a clear enforcement and disciplinary framework for addressing policy non-compliance; and
- foster a culture of health responsibility, environmental cleanliness, and wellness across the institution.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies across all campuses (Igbariam, Uli, and Awka), academic faculties, administrative directorates, hostels, research stations, and land holdings of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, and covers:

- all academic, administrative, technical, and junior staff members;
- enrolled undergraduate, postgraduate, and part-time students;
- contractors, sub-contractors, concessionaires, vendors, and commercial operators;
- campus residents, staff family members, and hostel occupants; and
- visitors, guests, alumni, and members of the general public accessing University property.

Nothing in this Policy shall be interpreted as permitting smoking or tobacco consumption within any enclosed or open boundary owned, leased, or controlled by the University.

4. PROHIBITED PRODUCTS AND RESTRICTED LOCATIONS

4.1 Prohibited Products

This Policy prohibits the smoking, burning, vaporizing, or aerosolizing of any substance using cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah/shisha), electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes, vapes), nicotine delivery systems, or herbal smoking products.

4.2 Restricted Locations

Smoking and aerosol product usage are strictly prohibited in all interior and exterior University spaces, including but not limited to: lecture halls, offices, laboratories, libraries, auditoriums, student hostels, residential staff quarters, sports complexes, dining facilities, open lawns, walkways, parking lots, and all University-owned or leased vehicles.

5. BAN ON COMMERCIAL SALE, ADVERTISING, AND SPONSORSHIP

The sale, distribution, sampling, advertising, or commercial promotion of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, or related paraphernalia is strictly banned within all University campuses, commercial centers, and student union facilities. No tobacco or vaping company sponsorship shall be accepted for any academic, cultural, or sporting events hosted on University property.

6. CESSATION SUPPORT AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The University Health Services, in collaboration with the Directorate of Student Affairs and Human Resources, shall provide smoking cessation resources, counseling, and health awareness campaigns for students and staff seeking to quit tobacco use.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Members of the University community and campus occupants shall:

a. comply strictly with all provisions of this Policy while on University premises;

b. inform guests, visitors, and contractors of the University's smoke-free requirements; and

c. report persistent violations or unauthorized tobacco sales on campus to designated security or administrative authorities.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

The University Management shall:

a. display prominent "No Smoking" signage across campus entrances, buildings, and public grounds;

b. ensure all commercial leases and third-party contracts include explicit smoke-free compliance clauses;

c. empower University Security Officers and Environment Marshals to enforce compliance; and

d. handle policy violations fairly through established staff and student disciplinary procedures.

9. ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS

Compliance with this Policy is mandatory. Violations by staff shall be treated as misconduct under University Conditions of Service. Violations by students shall be referred to the Student Disciplinary

Committee. Non-compliant contractors, vendors, or visitors may be removed from University property and face contract termination or eviction from commercial spaces.

10. GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The University shall mandate the **Campus Environmental Health and Safety Committee** to:

- a. oversee implementation and public awareness of this Policy across all campuses;
- b. monitor enforcement consistency and inspect campus grounds for policy compliance; and
- c. submit an annual Smoke-Free Policy Implementation Report to the Vice-Chancellor.

11. PUBLICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

This Policy shall be published on the official University website and portal, and incorporated into staff handbooks, student orientation guidelines, and vendor contract agreements.

12. REVIEW AND REVISION

This Policy shall be formally reviewed every three years or earlier where required by national public health legislation or Council directives. Every review shall be formally documented and approved.



Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, Fnipr
Vice Chancellor **Date:** 24/10/2026