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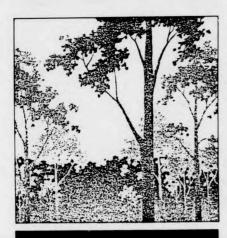
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NEWS Cont'd

Draft of the University's nonsmoking regulations reaches open forum stage in the next few weeks

By JEFF SHINDER

With the intention of eventually creating a smoke-free environment on campus, the advisory committee on the implementation of York University smoking policy has begun to draft regulations for smoking on campus.

The policy, presently in the draft stage, contains three phases. The first phase is designed to prohibit smoking in public areas on campus. For example, classrooms, seminar rooms, theatres, storage areas, library reading and stack rooms, gymnasiums, and elevators will be entirely smokeless.

The second component of the plan deals with the issue of smoking regulations for office areas, restaurants and pubs. A decision concerning smoking regulations for restaurants and pubs awaits interpretation of North York by-laws related to these establishments. University smokefree areas will be extended to all office space whether "open," shared, or private.

In phase three, special smoking areas equipped with separate ventillation equipment will be established in all the buildings on campus. Representative Peter Wood of the Department of Personnel Services emphasized that "for practical purposes you cannot isolate the smoke from other people without separate ducting."

According to Representative Billie Mullick of the Office of the Vice President (Finance and Administration) "we can offer at least one room per floor in the Ross building with existing space." Cost estimates for the establishment of new areas for smokers are incomplete at this time. The precise timetables for the phases has yet to be decided.

The original move to revise the University's smoking regulation was prompted by concerns about smoking being a fire hazard. However recent emphasis on the dangers of second hand smoke has led to renewed efforts to tighten the University's policy towards smokers.

Mullick stressed that "the University is not necessarily restricted to the North York by-law; we can extend the law as we see fit to suit the needs of the community."

She added that any revision to the

University smoking regulations will only be conducted after consultation with as many groups as possible. "The University wants to implement the policies in as democratic a manner as possible. We would encourage both smokers and non-smokers to participate in the open forum to express their views," Mullick concluded.

The forum, to be held March 25 at York campus and April 2 at Glendon, will provide both smokers and nonsmokers an opportunity to air their views. In addition, a "wellness week" will coincide with the forum. During the week different representatives from associations such as the Cancer and Diabetic associations will be invited to York.

A final provision of the new smoking policy is an Administration offer to subsidize any faculty or University employee who successfully quits the habit. Under the proposal anybody who subscribes to one of the smoking-ending courses (the precise course to be determined) and successfully quits for six months, is eligible for compensation from the Administration. The amount of the subsidy has yet to be determined.

Big savings' reason for office

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Hobson, however, will not cut any staff or decrease the store's size. "We will close before that happens."

The main reason the University requested American Express to place a Travel Management Service on campus was because of the money it could save. Farr and Heber said that American Express convinced York it could get the best prices on flights, hotels and car rentals through its bulk purchasing. The Corporate Card could be accessed at B&R, Heber said, but the agency wouldn't be able to offer York the special discounts American Express could.

"There is a fairly substantial savings," Heber said. "With a 15 percent discount available on our travel bookings, which are about a million dollars annually, there is a potential \$150,000 saving."

Hobson vehemently disagrees with the view that B&R could not match the benefits and savings American Express offers. "The airline fare is there, available to all agents at discount rates," Hobson said. "The size (of the company) has nothing to do with it . . . I have as much clout as American Express, if not more."

To match, if not to better American Express' offer, Hobson said, B&R would have introduced the En Route card, which she claims is superior to the American Express Corporate Card. "It's a Canadian created card that has worldwide affiliations," Hobson said. "Their discount package is as good as American Express'; they have greater life insurance coverage, a superior billing system and a longer cash flow."

Farr, however, is satisfied that B&R could not have matched American Express. "My guys in Finance did a good job with the recommendation they came up with (to go with American Express)," Farr said. "We went after a large, dependable travel management firm. American Express is that. We were not seeking to assist a small retail firm get into the business while we helped them through growing pains." Farr added that Stanford and the University of Manitoba use the American Express package and have been very pleased with it.

Farr and Arthurs also said that American Express was asked to locate a non-retail office (not open to customer service) on campus because York would get a percentage of its travel bookings through that firm. Farr said that two percent of the bookings' total value could give the University a windfall of \$15,000 next year.

Hobson remarked that because her rent is based on a percentage of gross revenue, the University would still receive that type of money. "If all the corporate business comes through here, my gross revenue will increase and the University would have been just as well off (as from the percentage it would get from American Express)."

The University also expects that the Corporate Card will save it hundreds of thousands of dollars in travel advances. "There's \$500,000 in cash advances outstanding at any given month end," Heber said. "That's money the University can use for investment income." A computerized printout of the charges would also save on bookkeeping expenses, Heber added.



NO RESPITE FOR THE LONELY SCHOLAR...Excal's version of a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Cut and paste on your local bathroom cubicle. Sit calmly and persevere until spring.

Burnett fears a cut in enrolment

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With the new allocation scheme, universities can either increase or reduce enrolment by three percent, but still retain the exact same amount of funding. Burnett fears that institutions wil attempt to reduce their enrolment by three percent by raising entrance grades, in order to attract a higher amount of financial return per student.

"Across the province, I think a

three percent reduction in all institutions translates into thousands of students being refused a university education," Burnett said.

Marni Paikin, a spokesperson for OCUA, said this is not a real concern because the three percent cushion was implemented as an error margin for universities in their yearly enrolment forecasts. Paikin sees this as "room to adjust, not to dump enrolment."