



# University of Toronto TORONTO ONTARIO M5S 1A1

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(OFFICE OF THE VICE-PROVOST, SPACE AND FACILITIES PLANNING)

TO: Business Board

SPONSOR: Ron Venter, Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning  
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DATE: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003 for April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003

AGENDA ITEM: 7 (a)

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, [EPAC]: Annual Report.

## JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Business Board receives reports for information.

## PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Over the years the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee [EPAC] has contributed to the establishment of new policies and approaches to better recognize and accept the importance of sustainability issues at the University of Toronto. The activities of EPAC are to be reported to the Business Board for information each year. Previously, these reports were directed to the Assistant V-P, Facilities & Services; with portfolio realignment, reporting is now directed to the Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning. As a result of this change in reporting structure, the operating procedures of EPAC have been reorganized and an EPAC Executive established. The function of the EPAC Executive is to coordinate and plan the EPAC meetings so as to better define stepwise improvements within a consistent set of objectives.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

During the period of July, 2002 to the present EPAC has met on a number occasions to define the procedures of the EPAC activities and to define the scope of objectives and issues that can be systematically addressed to enhance the greening of the University of Toronto campuses.

The initial EPAC policy and implementation procedures were approved by the Business Board of the Governing Council on March 7, 1994. This EPAC policy is currently under review by the EPAC Executive; the implementation procedures have been modified to accommodate both the reporting structure and the appointment of new senior administrators within the broader Facilities & Services and Capital Projects portfolios.

The EPAC policy, scheduled to be reviewed and reported upon during the next academic year, as well as the revised implementation procedures and the current membership of the EPAC executive are provide in the attached report. A complete report of the EPAC

activities will also be provided once this transition to operating within the revised framework has been successfully completed.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for information only

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, EPAC. UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

## **A. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY**

PREAMBLE: The University of Toronto is committed to being a positive and creative force in the protection and enhancement of the local and global environment, through its teaching, research and administrative operations. Recognizing that some of its activities, because of their scale and scope, have significant effects on the environment, the University as an institution, and all members of the university community, have the responsibility to society to act in ways consistent with the following principles and objectives:

### **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

- Minimization of negative impacts on the environment
- Conservation and wise use of natural resources
- Respect for biodiversity

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

In adopting these fundamental principles, the University will be guided by ethical attitudes towards natural spaces, and will take all reasonable steps to meet the following objectives:

- Minimize energy use, through efficient management and practice
- Minimize water use, through efficient management and practice
- Minimize waste generation through reduction, reuse and recycling
- Minimize polluting effluent and emissions into air, land and water
- Minimize noise and odour pollution
- Minimize and where possible eliminate use of chemicals, including outdoor salt, pesticides herbicides and cleaning agents
- Include biodiversity and environmental concerns in planning and landscape decisions
- Meet and where possible exceed environmental standards, regulations and guidelines

## **B. IMPLEMENTATION**

To implement this Environmental Protection Policy:

- An Environmental Protection Advisory Committee [EPAC], a committee open to all interested members of the University, will meet several times each year to discuss and advise an EPAC Executive on defined issues consistent with the University Environment Protection Policy.
- The EPAC Executive will consist of representatives of the administrative staff, academic staff, alumni, student representatives and the administration, and will be chaired by a member(s) of the University's academic staff. Membership [see below] on the EPAC Executive will be determined by the Chair(s) of the Executive and the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning, in consultation with members of the University. The term for all appointments will be for one year, renewable, and will be reported to EPAC.
- EPAC through the EPAC Executive will provide advice to the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning on programs to meet the environmental protection objectives.

- The EPAC Executive will arrange EPAC meetings to provide a forum to exchange ideas with all members of the University of Toronto community. All EPAC meetings will be open to all members of the University of Toronto.

The Assistant Vice-President, Facilities & Services (F&S) and Chief, Capital Projects Officer will, with input from the EPAC Executive:

- coordinate the participation of the F&S in the development and implementation of environmental protection initiatives and will liaise with the EPAC and all three campuses on the programs, as appropriate;
- regularly review University policies and procedures to ensure consistency with this policy;
- carry out appropriate environmental audits and pilot projects;
- undertake to inform the University community about this policy and EPAC and how its members, both personally and collectively, can best meet the objectives set forth in the policy;
- inform all contractors, service operations and users of University facilities that they must comply with requirements of the policy; and
- collaborate with the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning to issue an annual report concerning the University's impact on the environment, summarizing initiatives undertaken, identifying matters which require particular attention and plans for future initiatives.

### **C. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EPAC EXECUTIVE**

The 2002-03 membership of the EPAC Executive is:

Academic Membership:	Phil Byer (co-chair) Ann Zimmerman (co-chair) Dyanne Affonso, Dean, Faculty of Nursing
Administrators: Planning	Ron Venter, Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Catherine Riggall, Ass't V-P, Facilities & Services John Bisanti, Chief, Capital Projects Officer
Administrative Staff:	David Keeling, Faculty of Medicine
Student Representatives:	Three student representatives appointed from various student organizations with a keen interest in environmental issues: Jake Irwin (SAC), Joyce Yang (ENSU), and Tarek Ayash (GESA).
Alumni Member:	Brent Gilmour
Secretary:	Stanley Szwagiel, Facilities & Services
Co-opted Members:	Invited Members, with expertise to address current issues.