



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES

TO: Business Board

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DATE: June 12, 2003 for June 19, 2003

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Asbestos Control Policy

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Pursuant to Section 5.12 of the Terms of Reference, the Business Board recommends to Governing Council for approval, policies on health and safety matters.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Although the University has had an Asbestos Control Program in place for some time, this is the first time a Policy per se has been brought to Business Board for approval.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In March 2002, as a result of the concerns of employees with respect to the University's Asbestos Control Program, the Vice-President Human Resources established a Joint Task Force, with the following terms of reference:

- (i) Review the asbestos control program and procedures, including the inventory of asbestos containing materials in University properties, vis-a-vis current legal requirements.
- (ii) Investigate best practice in comparable institutions and in the private sector

- (iii) In light of (i) and (ii) above, recommend revisions to the current program and procedures, including a schedule for the timely review of the program
- (iv) Recommend procedures and processes for ensuring compliance with the asbestos control program by University staff and by external contractors, including the use of personal protective equipment
- (v) Review current training programs and make recommendations for improvement, as required.

Although the original goal was to complete this task by June 30, 2002, the complexities of the issues and the desire to reach consensus on as many issues as possible, resulted in a far longer consultation process.

The Task Force recommends that the University establish an **Asbestos Control Policy**, to be approved by Business Board, accompanied by an **Asbestos Control Program**.

The **Policy** sets out the University's commitment towards proper asbestos management practices.

Key features of the Asbestos Control **Program** include

The establishment of an Asbestos Advisory Committee, reporting to the Vice-President, Human Resources.

Increased involvement of JH&SC's in asbestos related activities and issues.

Review of the Program every two years.

Increased requirements for external contractors.

Establishment of an asbestos medical surveillance program to be made available to University employees who work with asbestos.

Improved training.

Consideration of proactive removal of asbestos during major renovation.

Development of two new positions within Facilities and Services (Manager, Environmental Hazards and Safety; Asbestos Coordinator, Capital Projects).

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The two proposed positions are built into the existing budgets in F&S; Asbestos containment and/or removal costs will be built into the Deferred Maintenance budget and/or Capital Renovation budgets as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended to the Business Board

THAT the Business Board recommend approval of the Asbestos Control Policy.