

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
of the  
**UNIVERSITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
concerning  
**A POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

Presented at the  
326<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate

and

329<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
March 12, 1981

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UNIVERSITY HEALTH COUNCIL, SPECIAL REPORT

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

1. The University of Massachusetts has a clear obligation to assure continuing close and critical surveillance and effective control of all environmental factors which may influence the health and safety of members of the University community. Among factors most readily recognized and accepted as subject to control are those related to the community as a whole, such as sanitation (food preparation and waste disposal), those involving hazards or contaminants (ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals), those related to life safety (fire protection and pedestrian safety) and those related to a variety of public health problems (communicable disease control, and rodent and insect control). All of these potential hazards must be recognized and controlled if the University is to provide a safe environment in which to pursue its academic endeavors.
2. In order to achieve a goal of providing a safe and healthy environment, it is essential that the University delineate the authority and responsibility for assuring compliance with health and safety standards on campus. Adoption of a written statement is consistent with the Recommended Standards and Practices for a University Health Program as published by the American College Health Association.
3. The American College Health Association in certifying the University's health program in 1978 recommended that such a policy statement be developed and approved by the University administration. The policy statement which follows has been under development by the University Health Council during the past academic year and is now being forwarded to the Senate for its approval.

A POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of faculty, staff, students and the visiting public is of primary concern to the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Providing a safe environment in which to live, work and study is of such consequences that it will be given high priority, appropriate support, and steady implementation established to eliminate where possible or to reduce to acceptable limits environmental and occupational hazards that are a threat to the health or safety of personnel or to property.

The program may adopt as guides appropriate health and safety standards promulgated by Federal and State agencies whenever feasible in establishing campus regulations and policy. Published standards of nationally recognized professional health and safety groups may serve as guidelines in the absence of appropriate statutes and governmental regulations.

The Chancellor has delegated to the Executive Director of the University Health Services the responsibility and authority for assuring compliance with applicable health and safety standards on campus.

The Chancellor has delegated to each dean, director, chairperson, and supervisor the operational responsibility for compliance with appropriate health and safety practices within his/her respective unit. The Division of Environmental Health and Safety of the University Health Services will provide technical assistance in establishing procedures and monitoring performance in activities involving public health and safety and environmental protection. The Environmental Health and Safety Staff may be called upon at any time for assistance.

Because of the personal nature of safety performance, everyone with supervisory responsibility will be expected to assure that safe working conditions are maintained. Faculty and staff should be directly responsible for their own safety, and should take the initiative to promote safe working conditions for students and employees under their supervision. This responsibility can neither be transferred nor delegated. Supervisors are expected to provide training for accident prevention, as necessary, for those working under their directions. Assistance in training is available from the Division of Environmental Health and Safety.

The Division of Environmental Health and Safety is responsible for working with and through individual academic and service units by identifying health and safety problems; establishing standards; evaluating and reporting on the status of compliance with standards; providing technical services; recommending and implementing necessary modification; recording, evaluating, and reporting accident experience; and developing training resources.

In emergency situations and when required to do so by codes, regulations, or licensure agreement, the Executive Director of the University Health Services or his/her authorized representative is authorized to take preventive, investigative, and remedial action. The Executive Director or his/her authorized representative in consultation with the appropriate Dean or Director may require the immediate halt or control of practices or conditions that have been determined to constitute an immediate and serious risk of death or serious harm to members of the campus community. Every reasonable effort will be made to address any disagreements regarding action taken.

MOTION:

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate recommend that the Administration adopt the policy  
15-81 statement on environmental health and safety as presented in Sen. Doc.  
No. 81-022A.