



December 12, 2018

**Statement on U of T's Proposed Smoke-Free Policy**

APUS is aware that the University of Toronto is currently in the process of updating the existing Smoking Policy to ban the smoking and/or vaping of tobacco and cannabis on all University properties effective January 1, 2019, pending approval at Governing Council on December 13, 2018. We also understand that other Ontario universities have similarly moved to ban smoking at the same time that the Canadian federal government has legalized both recreational and medical marijuana as of October 17, 2018.

We recognize that smoking tobacco is now considered a public health issue and that secondhand smoke poses risks to non-smokers. However, we had hoped to see a more extensive consultation process, and a more balanced approach to addressing the reality of smoking on University campuses. Although University Affairs Board and Business Board emphasized that the policy was intended to be educational rather than punitive, APUS remains concerned about the potential for targeted enforcement of the policy that will impact the most marginalized members of the University community.

We are additionally concerned that the University has provided few details regarding the intended transition period towards a smoke-free campus, including the possibility of designated smoking areas on each campus. We believe that designated smoking areas, with clear signage and in accessible areas on each campus, should be established before the Policy will take effect on January 1, 2019. Similarly, current infrastructure for smoking on campus, such as outside of University buildings, remains in place and could lead to confusion for members of the University community. APUS therefore requests that the University of Toronto defer the approval of the Smoke-Free Policy to a subsequent governance cycle in order to allow for consultation with the tri-campus University community regarding transitional arrangements, designated smoking areas, and the educational aspects of the policy.

APUS Executive Committee