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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD ADOPTS AIDS POSITION AND GUIDELINES

DAYTON, Ohio, May 27, 1988—Joining a growing number of universities and colleges across the country with similar policies, the University of Dayton has adopted a "Statement of Position and Guidelines on AIDS" to educate the campus about the disease, protect persons with AIDS from discrimination and ensure confidentiality.

"There have been no reported cases of AIDS among employees or students on campus," said William C. Schuerman, vice president for student development and dean of students. "These guidelines are a proactive move by the University."

The President's Council, a University committee of vice presidents, adopted the document last month. An AIDS Advisory Council, made up of 12 representatives from various departments on campus, first met in June 1986 to begin to develop AIDS guidelines for UD. Chaired by Dr. John H. Dirckx, medical director of UD's Gosiger Health Center, the committee reviewed policies from Youngstown State University, Ohio State University and Xavier University as well as guidelines from the American College Health Association, American Council on Education and the National Safety Council.

The adopted policy is a five-page document that has been reproduced in brochure form and mailed to all UD personnel. A condensed version of the statement will appear in UD's 1988-89 student handbook. In addition, informational programs about AIDS and the AIDS virus will be planned on campus to educate students and personnel about the disease.

The document includes excerpts from the U.S. Surgeon General's AIDS report and the American Medical Association on the prevention and control of AIDS. It urges students and staff to keep abreast of medical knowledge about the disease and not be afraid to seek help.

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"The University is committed to educating members of the campus community about AIDS, both to help limit the spread of the disease and to protect persons with AIDS from discriminatory actions and breaches of privacy," reads the introduction to the document.

UD also seeks to provide competent health and counseling services to students affected by communicable diseases and to treat them with "respect, compassion and due regard for their privacy" while at the same time preventing the spread of AIDS to uninfected persons.

According to the document, "no person will be denied admission to or enrollment in the University, suspended, dismissed, excluded from or limited in the use of residential, dining or recreational facilities, or denied participation in instructional, cultural, religious, athletic, social or other activities solely because of a diagnosis or suspicion of AIDS." In the workplace, "no person will be denied employment, dismissed from employment or restricted as to work assignment or opportunities for job change or promotion solely because of a diagnosis of AIDS."