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Two more residence halls go smoke free

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University will enact nonsmoking policies in two additional residence halls starting this fall. Hamlin Hall and Van Wagoner House will join the already smoke-free Anibal House in offering residents a completely smoke-free environment. Meanwhile, the former nonsmoking floors in Hill House and Vandenberg Hall will allow smoking in the fall.

"It's clear that our students are reflective of society as a whole," said Director of University Housing Eleanor Reynolds. "There are more demands for smoke-free environments, but at the same time, students are concerned about protecting all rights and not taking away the right to choose, which is why the former nonsmoking floors will allow smoking in residents' own rooms."

According to **University Housing Policies and Procedures**, smoking is defined as carrying a lit cigar, cigarette, pipe or other lighted device. In nonsmoking residence halls, smoking is not permitted anywhere, including residents' own rooms. On the other hand, residence halls without nonsmoking policies allow smoking in residents' own rooms, however, smoking is prohibited in all other enclosed areas within the hall including any shared living areas such as bathrooms, closets or foyers.

The House Policy Committee initiated the proposal to establish two additional non-smoking residence halls. After support was shown for adding more smoke-free buildings, the policy was drafted and sent to Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder, then to OU President Gary Russi for approval.

"The House Policy Committee reviews all university housing policies each year," Reynolds said. "This issue seems to be discussed more often, especially since University of Michigan's residence halls will be completely smoke-free starting this fall."

OU's new policy goes into effect Saturday, Aug. 30, the day new students are allowed to begin moving in the residence halls. Returning students can begin to move into the residence halls on Sunday, Aug. 31. The first day of fall semester classes is Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Oakland University has six unique residence hall buildings. A variety of living arrangements are available to meet the needs of each student. Besides smoke-free buildings, other options include double rooms, singles rooms and suites; private bathrooms and community bathrooms; and co-educational floors.

For more information on OU's housing options, visit the **Housing and Dining** Web site.

SUMMARY

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