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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU'S SMOKING BAN BEGINS JULY 1

CHARLESTON -- This is the last week for smokers to adjust to the idea that Eastern Illinois University will soon be free of pipe, cigar and cigarette smoke.

A ban on smoking will take effect July 1.

The policy, finalized in late March by Eastern's President's Council, bans smoking in all campus buildings except for select areas of university housing. Smoking also is prohibited in university vehicles; outdoor areas where seating is provided, such as athletic events or concerts; and in air-locks or entry ways.

According to the policy, smoking is allowed in private rooms only on designated floors of selected residence halls and in university-owned private residences. Smoking also is permitted in designated outdoor smoking areas adjacent to buildings.

The policy is the result of a university survey which indicated that most students and faculty favored restrictions on smoking. The Faculty, Staff and Student senates approved the measure this spring; the student body approved it in late February.

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SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

"This action provides the best working conditions for all members of the university community," said Jill Nilsen, special assistant to EIU President David Jorns.

Smoking related complaints will be handled by the various departments depending on the complainant's position on campus. Students may appeal to the Student Judicial Affairs Office; faculty and administrators to the various deans or vice presidents; civil service staff to the human resources department; and non-university personnel to the campus police department.