

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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Group won't set AIDS policy

By ALLAN FREEDMAN

The University committee formed to discuss the possible impact of AIDS at Columbia will meet for the first time Friday, Joseph Mullinix, senior vice president and chair of the committee, said last week.

Although University officials have previously referred to the group as a "committee to define a University policy" on AIDS, Mullinix said the group will not be formulating policy. He said the group will examine ways of educating the University community about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and Aids Related Complex (ARC), a group of symptoms associated with immune deficiency.

"I think the major focus will be educational efforts and the adequacy of screening and treatment activities," Mullinix said. "I don't see this group as establishing policy."

Mullinix said he did not believe new procedural guidelines should be drawn up to deal with AIDS. He commented that if a University employee were to contract AIDS, he would consult with legal and medical officials to determine how to deal with the case. This practice is similar to how the University handles other infectious diseases.

Students who will serve on the committee expressed their disappointment last night that the committee will not help to establish University policy.

Anastasios Kalomiris, CC '86 and member of the committee, said he believes the committee should make policy recommendations. He said one of his concerns was how the University will deal with a student who has AIDS or ARC.

“Will people with AIDS be allowed to attend class here?” he questioned. “The University is going to have to deal with that.”

Another committee member, Les Hollo, head resident of John Jay and second year law student, also said he was disappointed the committee would not formulate policy. But Hollo agreed the committee should tackle the problem of education. He said he believed the group should help to dispel “all the fallacies and fear that exists.”

Medical officials say policy issues related to AIDS and ARC the University might soon have to resolve include whether University health insurance will cover medical costs related to AIDS for students, faculty, or staff; whether the University will support students with AIDS who wish to live in Columbia housing or attend classes; whether faculty members, administrators or staff members with AIDS or ARC will be asked to leave Columbia.