

University Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2009

Christy Twait called the meeting to order

Roll was not recorded.

Christy welcomed Kevin Shannon, a Jr. Comp Sci major, as one of our student members.

The minutes were approved with the correction by Wendel that Sanaguard is a spray on product and Prefenz is the all day, one application product for H1N1 sanitizing. Wendel notes that the Health Center does not approve of any sanitizers that do not contain alcohol.

Announcements have been posted through UNI Online, among other postings, that our committee exists and requests health and safety concerns be forwarded through representatives or directly to the committee.

Self nominations for Chair, co-Chair, and recorder for next year will be solicited as many members are not in attendance at this meeting. Kathy will send an email requesting nominations. Guidelines for replacement of mid-year resignation will need to be clarified as early retirements take effect in December.

An issue has come up with faculty requiring notes from the Health Center excusing students with flu symptoms, but the Health Center is no longer providing notes for this purpose. Students are requested to stay at home if they have flu symptoms and the Health Center cannot post diagnose or handle the load. The issue is then no verification of the flu and no medical excuse for the absence. Policy guidance on requested/required inclusions to syllabi will be forthcoming from the Provost's office including medical emergencies, such as the flu, and evacuation plans and procedures. Some faculty may raise the issue of Academic Freedom. Committee discussion included the need for consistency in completing syllabi, consistency in what is included in syllabi, consistency in absence policies, especially during medical emergencies, the right of the

student to evacuate in an emergency, etc. The committee discussed the problems of inconsistencies in evacuation plans across campus.

Wendel reported on safety concerns raised at the last meeting. The East commons stairway is a necessary stairway and is now on the Building Repair list. The tile near the 23rd Street market that is very slippery when wet is also on the BR list, but Wendel is not sure where. Wendel will follow up with this information.

We are asked to promote Gary Higbee's "Learn Your Responsibility for Employee Safety" lecture 11/3 from 2 to 4 pm in Lang Auditorium.

New Business

One committee member will be leaving in December. The represented area will be consulted for a replacement.

The Drug and Alcohol Policy has been approved. A copy was handed out.

New Safety Concerns

Ice Safety – We need another posting as winter approaches about the potential for injuries when dealing with icy conditions. The committee discussed spike slip-ons for shoes and whether they are used effectively.

Kevin asked about the mechanism for NISG to bring up safety concerns. Immediate concerns should be directed to Wendel Reece and ongoing concerns should be directed to Kathy Green.

Jeff Elbert (temp)