

University Health and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2010

Present: Wendel Reece, Jeff Elbert, Brad Bauler, Therese Callaghan, Lori Hoffman, Dean Shoars, Christy Twait and Kathy Green

I. Announcements:

- Committee Membership: Curt Nielsen is joining the committee to represent Price Lab School, in replacement of Michelle Swanson, who no longer is employed at the Lab School.
- Committee chair will be seeking a “committee recorder” from among our membership during the summer, to have in place prior to the September meeting. Volunteers are welcome!
- All committee members will continue through fall semester 2010. The two year term appointments will end at that time, though those members may choose to renew their membership. Four year term appointees will, of course, continue.
- Next year’s meeting schedule will be the same as this year: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., third Thursdays of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., and Apr. Location has not yet been determined but hopefully will be in Maucker Union.
- The role of committee members was reviewed as well as the importance of committee member attendance and participation. We serve as a “watchdog” of sorts for the environmental safety of the campus community, an avenue to communicate to the campus as well as an avenue for community members to raise their concerns.

II. Old Business

- Smoking Law: There was a recent report to the committee chair of Sabin Hall construction worker(s) smoking on campus. The report was forwarded to Dave Zarifis, Public Safety, as well as the Facilities Services employee overseeing the Sabin project. Communication has been made to contractors regarding the law and consequences of violation. The committee discussed further the need to continue monitoring violations so that disregard for the law does not increase over time. Dean Shoars explained that smoking on sidewalks adjacent to city streets is allowed. He has received only two complaints and believes that the Iowa Department of Health has only received two complaints as well related to UNI. It was suggested that Public Safety post a reminder on UNIONline and MyUniverse about the Law and consequences of violation. A reminder sent specifically to International Services Office may help as well for international students. It was also suggested that Public Safety include any smoking citations in the weekly crime report that is printed in the Northern Iowan, as a reminder to the campus community.
- Associate Provost is developing a two day faculty development workshop to include information regarding our emergency evacuation/shelter proposal. Christy Twait will report in September regarding the occurrence and success of that initiative.

III. New Business

- Safety Reports:

- A broken grate in the tunnel under Hudson Road was reported and has been replaced.
- The fall of a child down steps in the Dome during a recent wrestling tournament was reported. Wendel Reece and Facilities Services investigated immediately and have followed up with Athletic Director Troy Dannen about measures to take with the railing to prevent future similar occurrences. Wendel has not heard back regarding completion of those measures so will follow up again and report back to the committee.
- Worker Comp Reports: Therese Callaghan provided the 2010 first quarter report of reported incidences. Reports increased from 41 in 2009 to 66 in 2010 for the same time period. However, the lost work time dropped 73%, mainly due to efforts to get employees back to work as soon as possible, in a capacity accommodating any restrictions. UNI is doing well to get employees back to work in a timely manner, which research shows is optimal for both the employee and employer. It is not known if the this quarter's increased reports indicate increased number of incidents or just increased **reporting**, due to raised awareness of employees that they should report injuries.
- Dean Shoars reported that the Safety Office is going to purchase some emergency evacuation chairs (that take people up and down stairs) for certain buildings on campus. A training program for the faculty/staff in those buildings will be written to accompany the chairs. Dean will report in September as to how many chairs were purchased and locations they were placed.

This was the last meeting of the school year. Next meeting will be in September.