

University Health and Safety Committee Meeting-January 28, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. in the Maucker Union College Eye Room

Members Present:

Therese Callaghan, John Mirchich, Jaimie Bell, Kevin Shannon, Wendel Reece, Dean Shoars, Carol Fletcher, Irene Elbert, Brad Bauler, Jeff Elbert, Paul Huber, Tony Hanson, Kathy Green and guest Paul Meyermann

Minutes of the November, 2009, meeting were approved (Shoars/Bauler)

Membership: New members Jaimie Bell, graduate student rep for NISG, and Tony Hanson, Physical Plant rep in replacement of Steve Young (who recently retired) were introduced and welcomed to the committee. It was also noted that Kathy's request to Biology Department head David Saunders regarding Biology representation has not received a response. Jeff Elbert said that he'll speak to Dr. Saunders about that directly. Additionally, Kathy will request a replacement for Kate Guess from UM/PR, who recently left University employment.

Old Business:

1. Per committee interest/concern about winter safety on sidewalks, parking lots and streets, Paul Meyermann (who oversees Grounds) was invited to share the UNI plan for snow and ice removal. Both UNI employees and contracted services are used. Along with these efforts, communicating caution to the campus community would be helpful, since a totally safe environment cannot be realistically assured at all times in winter weather. There remain questions regarding the financial responsibility of snow/ice removal outside of the standard University work hours, for special events. Custodians help as they are able to keep the first fifteen feet outside doorways cleared until the contracted service providers arrive. The Grounds crews are well aware of recurring problem areas on campus but if you become aware of a particularly dangerous place, call 3-4400 or Dean Shoars and give details about specific location.
2. As follow-up to November meeting discussion of campus worker injury reports, Carol Fletcher and Brad Bauler reported what the Department of Residence does in the way of training and oversight to prevent accident and injury of their employees.
 - a) Each DOR job has a "job demand profile" so that physical demands are clearly defined.
 - b) On a yearly or semesterly basis, training is providing, including CPR, First Aid, proper lifting, proper use of equipment, ergonomics, etc.
 - c) All reports of injury are reviewed to determine what occurred and why, and what needs to be done to prevent re-occurrence.

Dean Shoars added, and Carol concurred, that injuries are sometimes the result of employees hurrying, lack of focus, or a distraction. And in the case of student employees, exhaustion as they head into Finals Week increases risk of accident and injury. The Physical Plant has a Safety Committee, which works on the prevention of worksite accident/injury and reviews those that occur.

Both departments invest much time and financial resources in training and prevention.

3. As a committee, we will continue to informally monitor compliance with the Smoke-Free policy. If we notice situations/locations where smoking is commonly occurring on campus, we should call Public Safety, who will follow up. If the policy is not enforced, more non-compliance may occur. Education whenever possible, however, is the most effective way to bring compliance.

New Business:

1. Fire Safety: At our next meeting, Wendel will report on what is being done to monitor campus fire safety practices since the retirement of the UNI employee who provided that oversight.

2. Sabin Construction Problems: Jeff Elbert reported a couple of issues that need to be addressed.

a) A construction truck driver has been observed driving recklessly on University property near Sabin Hall. Dean said this has been reported by others and he is following up.

b) In relation to the project, it seems the public thinks they can also drive on the sidewalks near Sabin and have been observed doing so. This has also been reported to Dean and addressed in the past. Dean will bring this up at the next construction meeting but if any of us observe this, we should call Steve Pavelec to report.

3. Dean mentioned that our committee can request presentations from his various department specialists to speak on topics of interest related to campus safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Maucker Union College Eye.