UNIVERSITY-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2010 1:00-2:30 pm – UW Club Conference Room

In Attendance
Leslie Anderson (1)
Ron Fouty (2)
Sterling Luke (2)
Paul Zuchowski (3)
Bob Ennes (4)
Greg Brazil (4)
Chuck Treser (4)
Sherri Huber (6)
Ken Jones (7)
Stephen Costanti (8)
Michael McMillan (8)
Michael Glidden (9)
Jack Herndon (9)
David Zuckerman (10)
Liz Kindred (12)

In Attendance
Jimmy Milton (12)
Rick Gleason (Fac. Senate)
Elizabeth Dahl (Ex-O, AGO)
Tracey Mosier (Ex-O, FS)
Wendy Winslow-Nason (Ex-O, RM)
Carol Garing (Crtv Com)
Richard Murray
Pamela Thomas (Guest)
Jude Van Buren EH&S
David Leonard (EH&S)
Denis Sapiro (EH&S)
Michael Merrill (EH&S)

Not Present
Connie Bartlett (1)
Erin Foy (3)
Megan Amen (5)
Susie Sargent (5)
Tracy Harvey (6)
John Miller (7)
Kristian Haapa-aho (10)
Paula Minton-Foltz (12)
Laura Davenport (SEIU - 925)
Paul Bentson (WFSE 1488)
Steve Charvat (UWEM)
Siri McLean (UWEM)

Agenda
1. Call to order
2. Minutes for March
3. Presentation: 5 Years of UW Workers’ Compensation
4. Organizational Group Reports
5. L&I Report
6. Adjournment

Recorded: by Michael Merrill

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Fouty, followed by member introductions.
2. March minutes were approved as written.

3. Presentation: 5 Years of UW Workers’ Compensation
Denis Sapiro introduced guests from UW Risk Management, Wendy Winslow-Nason, Sr. Claims Specialist, and Shari Spung, Director of Claims Services. Copies of Wendy’s PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members who were present and electronic copies were also e-mailed to all members. In a nutshell:

- Compared to general industry in other states Washington currently ranks slightly above the national average in the occupational injury and illness incidence rate (per 100 FTEs).
- Within Washington, the 2009 claim rate was 2.1 (per 100 FTEs) for the UW, compared to the State as a whole of 9.1 (per 100 FTEs).
- Note: The University is classified by the State as “education” even though it is actually a combination of two major industrial classifications – hospital and education. This classification is granted because the medical centers are teaching institutions.
- Within the University, the medical center sector generates the most claims and the education sector the least. This reflects the same pattern of rates nationwide for sectors of state government. That is, state hospitals typically have high claim rates.
- The premium paid by the UW for L&I’s Workers’ Compensation insurance is determined by how the University’s claim rate compares to other institutions in the same industrial classification. If a factor called the “EMF” (Experience Modification Factor) is higher, we pay more. If it is less, we pay less. The base rate is the industry average where the EMF is valued at “1.0”. The biggest driver of the EMF at the UW is the amount of time lost from work. However, this trend is on a slight decline.
- **UW claims ranked by frequency** (time loss = same order for the 1st 3):
  1. HMC
     - Nursing
     - Environmental Services
     - Security / Facilities Services
  2. UWMC
     - Nursing
     - Surgery
     - Materials Management
  3. Facilities Services
     - Physical Plant / Maintenance and Alterations
     - Physical Plant / Campus Operations
     - Physical Plant / Custodial
  4. School of Medicine (sub-sections not ranked)
  5. Student Life (time loss is 4th behind Facilities Services)
     - Retail Food Services
     - Residence Halls
     - Student Activities / Union Facility
- **UW claims ranked by injury type**:
  1. Sprain / Strain
  2. Slip and Fall
3. Pain
4. Fracture
5. Repetitive Trauma

- **UW claims ranked by diagnosis:**
  1. Strain, Back
  2. Strain, Shoulder
  3. Pain, Lower Back
  4. Strain, Hand / Wrist

**The key to controlling costs is an effective Return-To-Work Program.**

4. Committee (HSC) and Union Reports

**HSC 1**, Administration/Other Academic Programs: Leslie Anderson reported meeting that morning. Siri McLean from the UW Office of Emergency Management provided training for emergency preparation. The group reviewed accident reports from EH&S. Leslie noted that an EH&S receptionist who answered a hospitalization phone call advised that this notification (for appendicitis) wasn’t necessary. This is the second time in two months this has happened. EH&S personnel at the meeting assured her this would be followed up.

**HSC 2**, Finance and Facilities: Ron Fouty reported having met twice since the last U-Wide. The first meeting discussed the minutes, U-Wide report, unit reports, and the fact that March is National Red Cross month. Preparations for fire drills in March were also discussed.

The April meeting discussed a ventilation issue at the Burke Museum associated with a remodel in a small enclosed space. Apparently, the smell of a citrus solvent used to remove asbestos-containing mastic impacted several employees for about 1-1/2 weeks while attempts were being made to get rid of it with increased ventilation. Capital Projects has since made changes to a couple of procedures. (Note: Denis Sapiro advised the group that multiple reports from the same incident should all be separate reports. This makes it easier to track individuals in the database.) Denis added that this citrus solvent is a fairly benign product but does have a strong smell, objectionable to some people. Facilities Services doesn’t use it but Washington State University uses it all the time. Tracey Mosier pointed out the potential for sensitizing individuals with products that contain d-limonene which is also extracted from orange peel.

**HSC 3**, Student Affairs: Paul Zuchowski reported meeting yesterday and reviewing accident/incident reports.

**HSC 4**, Health Sciences: Bob Ennes reported a presentation by Denis Sapiro and Michael Merrill on departmental Health & Safety Plans.

**HSC 5**, Built Environments: not present

**HSC 6**, Arts & Sciences: Sherri Huber reported reviewing accident reports from EH&S. The group will be reviewing departmental Health & Safety Plans at the next meeting.
HSC 7, UW Bothell: Ken Jones reported that they met yesterday. David Leonard gave a great presentation on Earthquakes and showed a video from the Northridge quake in 1994. They also reviewed a couple of accident reports. One was a slip/fall and the other was a near-miss involving a Gator’s inappropriate action of going around a stopped car. A discussion followed regarding the regulation of Gators and golf carts, etc., vs. motor vehicles. Denis Sapiro added that the UW is currently looking at whether we are doing all we can to keep employees safe who are driving these vehicles.

HSC 8, UW Tacoma: Steve Costanti reported having two meetings since the last U-Wide. Incident reports included a couple of assaults. Since violence was anticipated, the police were alerted ahead of time – and responded promptly.

HSC 9, Engineering: Jack Herndon reported a short meeting. Recently, EH&S and a building coordinator evaluated the procedure for disposing of broken glass. Apparently, some glass wasn't making it into the dumpster.

HSC 10, College of the Environment: David Zuckerman reported reviewing accident reports from EH&S – mostly from Oceanography ships. The group is working on Health & Safety Plans. Currently, only two of seven units have one. David asked whether the EH&S training database allowed supervisors to make queries regarding employee asbestos awareness training. Denis said the database doesn’t have this capability, but other methods are being evaluated.

HSC 11, (currently vacant)

HSC 12, UW Medicine: Jimmy Milton and Liz Kindred reported that data for recent respirator fit-testing for the H1N1 virus shows about 80% of the effort was in UWMC, with about 20% in HMC. The two medical centers serve very different patient populations and took different approaches to fit-testing.
  - Harborview based its decisions on supplies and at-risk employees, which included nurses, respiratory therapists, docs and other professions. Focus was on protecting first responders and those likely to come in contact with community cases of H1N1.
  - The UW Medical Center focused on protecting immuno-compromised patients such as bone marrow and other transplant patients. UWMC had also stock-piled the N95 masks over the past 3 years while HMC had a more limited supply.

SEIU: Laura Davenport was not present.

WFSE: Paul Bentson was not present.

Faculty Senate: Rick Gleason added to the discussion on the solvent derived from oranges. He pointed out that “natural” doesn’t necessarily mean “safe.” Always refer to an MSDS and follow directions on the label.

5. L&I Report for February:
  - L&I DOSH (Washington Department of Safety & Health) is investigating a “Phone-Fax” complaint regarding a potential exposure to bloodborne pathogen/infectious material associated with dirty equipment pickups at
Harborview. EH&S and Central Processing have met and are preparing documents for a submittal. HMC has procedures in place which should never result in an exposure. These procedures will now be written down. A citation isn’t expected.

- L&I DOSH inspectors showed up about a month after a monkey-bite incident in the primate center resulting in hospitalization due to infection (L&I has 6 months to respond). In the last 4-6 months there have been more monkey bite/scratch incidents than usual. A sub-committee has formed to evaluate this trend.
- An asthma reaction to construction dust was reported from the UWMC NNICU, the “Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.” L&I is requesting information on the exposure.
- An accident was reported regarding a brand-new elevator in HMC. A nurse who was transporting a patient reported that the elevator fell “several feet,” injuring her back as the elevator jerked. The patient wasn’t hurt and the employee is back at work. Even though it felt like a bigger fall, the data log (present in newer elevators) showed a drop of 1 inch to maybe 1 ft. The elevator is being examined.
- The golf cart incident hasn’t been settled yet.

6. Ron Fouty adjourned the meeting.