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## DRAFT UNIVERSITY-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 13 2009 1:00-2:30 pm – HUB 106B

### In Attendance

Leslie Anderson (1)  
Connie Bartlett (1)  
Paul Zuchowski (3)  
Barbara Lovseth (4)  
Bob Ennes (4)  
Rich Lee (4)  
Chuck Treser (4)  
Megan Amen (5)  
Susie Sargent (5)  
  
Tracy Harvey (6)  
  
Ken Jones (7)  
Stephen Costanti (8)  
Michael Glidden (9)  
Jack Herndon (9)

### In Attendance

David Zuckerman (10)  
Kristian Haapa-aho (11)  
Rick Gleason (Faculty Senate)  
Elizabeth Dahl (Ex-O, AGO)  
Wendy Winslow-Nason (Ex-O, RM)  
Steve Charvat (UWEM)  
Carol Garing (Crtv Com)  
David Leonard (EH&S)  
Anne Marie Marshall (Ex-O, FS)  
  
Jude Van Buren (EH&S)  
  
Denis Sapiro (EH&S)  
Michael Merrill (EH&S)

### Not Present

Ron Fouty (2)  
Pete Federici (2)  
Diane Hanks (3)  
Sherri Huber (6)  
Deborah Conley Staerk (7)  
Michael McMillan (8)  
Margery Cooper (10)  
Ray Hartman (11)  
Paul Bentson (WFSE  
1488)  
John Freudenthal (UAW  
Local 4121)

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### Agenda

1. Call to order
  2. Minutes for March and April
  3. Introduction of new EH&S Director
  4. 2008 Workers' Compensation Report
  5. Group and Union Reports
  6. EH&S Report – L&I inspections
  7. Adjournment
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Recorded: by Michael Merrill

**1. Meeting was called to order by Jack Herndon.** Chair, Ron Fouty, is recuperating from back surgery.

**2. Minutes for March and April were approved as written.**

**3. Denis introduced Jude Van Buren,** the new Director of Environmental Health & Safety. Jude has worked in the Environmental Health field for over 25 years since she received her B.S. here at the UW. Following graduate school at Johns Hopkins, positions in Maryland, overseas, and at Evergreen State College, she's delighted to return to where she started.

**4. Presentation: 2008 Workers' Compensation Report**

Wendy Winslow-Nason is a Senior Claims Specialist for the Office of Risk Management.

Wendy explained that Workers' Compensation:

- Is no-fault insurance
- Covers at-work injuries
- Pays medical treatment and wage replacement
- Is insured through the State – benefits are paid out of an insurance pool called the Washington State Fund (few states do this)
- L&I manages the claims – there is a dedicated unit for UW

2008 costs included \$12,500,000 in premiums (8,500,000 from the UW / 4,000,000 from employee paychecks). "We're all in this together!"

It is estimated that for every dollar of direct cost there are an additional \$4-\$10 in hidden costs, including:

- Lost time by workers and supervisors
- Damaged equipment and product
- Loss of production
- Reduced morale
- Cost to train replacement.

Premium costs are governed by an "experience factor" – actual loss experienced by the UW over 3 years compared to the average. The factor "1.0" represents the average of all educational institutions in Washington. Values more than 1.0 are worse than average (raising premium) and values less than 1.0 are better than average (lowering premium). The UW's current experience factor is 0.98 which is about average. Our employee count is about 36,500, including the 2 hospitals.

To see some interesting statistics regarding UW claims, go to the EH&S website. A copy of Wendy's PowerPoint presentation is at <http://www.ehs.washington.edu/ps0/whatsnew.shtm>.

Accident prevention at the University - improving safety and health in our workplaces:

- Saves lives
- Saves money
- It's the law!

**Question:** What is the “flow” of a claim?

**Answer:**

- Doctors initiate a claim when an injured person seeks medical attention
- L&I decides whether to allow the claim
- The same case manager works with the employee throughout the process in order to maintain consistency.
- OARS and PSN reports constitute a different system and must be submitted in addition to L&I claims. *Both must be submitted for an injury.*

**Question:** “What has the trend been at the University for the last 5-10 years?”

**Answer:** A graph of our experience factor is on page 3 of the presentation. It went from 1.02 in 2003 to 0.74 in 2006 and back up to the current 0.98 this year. Joseph Kwok can offer more details. The largest dollar losses have been due to lifting injuries, especially lifting heavy patients. To help prevent these injuries, Lift Teams and last year’s Safe Patient Handling Program have been established.

**Question:** “Are volunteers covered by Workers’ Compensation?”

**Answer:** Injuries to volunteers must be reported – this is not discretionary. Failure to inform workers of their rights can be considered a criminal offense. Don’t “wait and see” how an injury turns out before reporting it – report it immediately. Any injury that requires hospitalization must be reported to L&I by EH&S within 8 hours.

## 5. Group Reports – Union Reports

**Group 1, Administration/Other Academic Programs:** Leslie Anderson reported 4 new people on their committee. Leslie has contacted the last department to be represented – the President’s Office. Joseph Kwok will be invited to talk again about the OARS system because of the new employees. OARS reports were reviewed.

**Group 2, Finance and Facilities:** Carol Garing reported discussing Emergency Evacuations, the prevention of heat stress, recent OARS reports, the Office of Emergency Management, bicycle safety, and the UWPD Citizens’ Academy (highly recommended).

**Group 3, Student Affairs:** Paul Zuchowski reported reviewing OARS reports. An accident “trend” was noted in which people have been running into the backs of police vehicles. It was also observed that, during the evacuation of Hall Health Center, student attitude during class breaks seemed to be “The yellow police caution tape applies to everyone BUT me – I have to get to class.”

**Group 4, Health Sciences/Hospitals:** Barb Lovseth reported that Kathy Maher gave a presentation on Harborview injuries in 2008 (714 incidents). A nursing graduate student at HMC, Marti Tinkham, has been developing display posters as communication tools for custodians. Real pictures, not cartoons, show proper handling procedures for cleaning chemicals that are carried in custodial carts. The danger of arc flashing was discussed and a graphic video was shown. Non-hospital incidents were described by its review committee but there wasn’t enough time for the hospital incident review

committees to present. Rich Lee pointed out that HMC's injury categories in PSN are different than in OARS. Their numbers are high but they're working on it.

**Group 5, Built Environments:** Meegan Amen reported their committee had no new OARS cases to review. A closed L&I ergonomic case inspired a rule that guarantees every new or temporary employee has at least a proper desk and chair. Next week, Evacuation Wardens will meet to delegate duties, etc.

**Group 6, Arts & Sciences:** Tracy Harvey reported reviewing OARS reports. They discussed the best way to respond to inadequate corrective action by supervisors. Tracy is following up. Denis said he's asked Industrial Hygienists to investigate and report on some incidents. Employees and supervisors can track the progress of this activity in the OARS system

**Group 7, UW Bothell:** Ken Jones reported reviewing 3 OARS reports in their last meeting. One involved mysterious damage to the Library book drop. It looks like someone had to drive on the sidewalk to cause this. Repairs may reach \$3,000. Another report involved a slip and fall. This led to a spirited conversation regarding slips and falls. Darren Branum gave a great presentation in the student union building on fire safety.

**Group 8, UW Tacoma:** Stephen Costanti reported they will meet tomorrow. Odiferous bricks will be removed and replaced in the vacated old mattress factory building.

**Group 9, Engineering:** Jack Herndon reported reviewing relatively minor OARS reports and discussing topics from the previous U-Wide meeting.

**Group 10, Forest Resources:** David Zuckerman reported the question was asked whether faculty members could serve as Evacuation Wardens. Yes, it's okay, but faculty need to be available when needed and have alternates assigned in case they're not present. Darren Branum is the expert in dealing with this kind of issue. Group 5 had a similar situation. They "hedged their bets" with back-ups that were also trained. They are waiting to hear from Dave Leonard regarding how to get an official "No Smoking" sign for the courtyard area.

**Group 11, Ocean & Fishery Science:** Kristian Haapa-Aho reported an injury involving a "large sliver" in which the first aid kit was out of the items needed. Be sure to keep first aid kits stocked! In a recent EH&S safety walk-through of the Fisheries Building, all the eye-washes were found to drain into the wall. It is also difficult to contain test water for certain eye-wash stations because the drain is so close to the wall and floor. Denis will work with them to develop an eye wash kit. Eye wash bottles are not approved because they don't have enough flow. The flow of safety showers is designed to be 60 gals/min.

**WFSE 1488:** Paul Bentson not present.

**UAW 4121:** John Freudenthal not present.

**SEIU 925:** New representative to be determined.

**Faculty Senate:** Rick Gleason reported working on a safety checklist for his classes to use. He'll present a draft at the next meeting or the one following.

**Note:** Denis Sapiro told us that L&I is concerned how safety committee elections are conducted at the UW. They previously looked at HMC's methods and are now reviewing Group 2 procedures because of recent electrical accidents.

Contractor Experience Modification Rates (EMR) are part of the public domain and their WISHA compliance and inspection histories can be found on the L&I website. Jude Van Buren pointed out that reviewing safety records is part of the bidding process. Under reporting is not considered a reason for change in the UW's EMR. Deaths and time lost are the biggest factors. OSHA and Workers' Compensation are totally separate.

#### **6. EH&S Report – L&I Inspections:**

Denis Sapiro reported:

- Hopefully on Monday there will be closure on the L&I electrical accident investigation.
- Agreement has been reached on the investigation involving HMC public safety officers. L&I is dropping the dollar amount and is issuing a variance for the fire house stairwell which is 3" too short. The case is now in the hands of the judge.
- There have been complaints to L&I about helicopter fumes in the HMC new west wing since it was built. Filters are being replaced more frequently, now – from once a year to every 4 months and may go to every 3 months if necessary. L&I has not issued a citation and the case is closed
- Asbestos warning labels have now been installed in Music, Art, and Miller Hall buildings.
- The haz-mat response at Hall Health Center on 5/11/09 involved 29 emergency vehicles. This level of response was determined by the high number of people in the affected area that had the potential for exposure.
- Workplace Violence Training has been revised. There is a new DVD about what to do in an "active shooter" situation. We were advised to **not pull the fire alarm!** Doing so would alert the shooter and put uninformed firefighters in harm's way. Denis will arrange for Dave Girts to conduct this training at the next meeting.

**7. Vice Chair, Jack Herndon, adjourned the meeting early.**