UNIVERSITY-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2008 1:00-2:30 pm – UW Club, Lower Level Conference Room

In Attendance
Leslie Anderson (1)
Pete Federici (2)
Ron Fouty (2)
Paul Zuchowski (3)
Rich Lee (4)
Bob Ennes (4)
Barbara Lovseth (4)
Tracy Harvey (6)
Ken Jones (7)
Stephen Costanti (8)
Jack Herndon (9)
David Zuckerman10)

In Attendance
Larry Sommers (SEIU 925)
John Freudenthal (UAW 4121)
Paul Benton (WFSE 1488)
Carol Garing (Crtv Com)
Elizabeth Dahl (Ex-O, AGO)
Bill Armstrong (Ex-O, FS)
Wendy W. Nason (Ex-O, RM)
David Leonard (EH&S)
Denis Sapiro (EH&S)
Michael Merrill (EH&S)
Steve Charvat (UWEM)
Mark Murray (EH&S)
Darren Branum (EH&S)
Siri Elizabeth McLean (UWEM)

Not Present
Connie Bartlett (1)
Diane Hanks (3)
Ed Farnham (4)
Chuck Treser (4)
Megan Amen (5)
Peter Rackers (5)
Jan Whittington (5)
Susan Sargent (5)
Sherri Huber (6)
Deborah Conley Staerk (7)
Michael McMillan (8)
Heidi Dlubac (9)
Margery Cooper (10)
Ray Hartman (11)
Kristian Haapa-aho (11)

Agenda
1. Call to order
2. Minutes
3. Group Reports – Union Reports
5. EH&S Report – L&I inspections
6. New Business: Future Topics
7. Adjournment

Recorded: by Michael Merrill

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Fouty.
2. There being a quorum, August and September Minutes were approved as written.

3. Group Reports – Union Reports

Group 1, Administration/Other Academic Programs: Leslie Anderson reported meeting that morning. They received a “preview” of the 50-minute Workplace Violence presentation. She said it was great and very motivating to schedule the full presentation. There were no OARS reports to review.

Group 2, Finance and Facilities: Ron Fouty reported their 9/11 meeting was well attended. They discussed the Bothell U-Wide meeting and several local emergency drills, one at the UW Tower. This generated interest in evacuation warden training. One of the member groups recently moved to an older building with seasonal water issues and security issues. Bottled water is being brought in to address the water issue and the UWPD is assisting with developing methods to address the security issues.

Group 3, Student Affairs: Paul Zuchowski reported reviewing OARS reports and discussing labeling updates for asbestos in the HUB (sample signage was passed around). He reported another “capture the flag” accident.

Group 4, Health Sciences/Hospitals: Rich Lee reported reviewing subcommittee OARS reports including 52 from the two hospitals. Twelve were from the same incident in a radiation treatment area, involving overheating UPS batteries and the resulting foul odor. Both hospitals are experiencing ergonomic issues associated with sore backs from standing at computer stations. The Group shared deep concern about the UW’s lack of Supervisor safety training and discussed bringing the issue to the U-Wide Committee.


Group 6, Arts & Sciences: Tracy Harvey reported her group reviewed OARS reports and sent one supervisor a memo requesting completion. They are continuing to work on a safety committee information poster for Gr. 6. Denis commented on the new OARS semi-automatic supervisor “nagging system” which is much better than the current notification system. He also said there is still time to beta test the new OARS until the end of the year. OARS 2 goes “live” on 1/1/09. A tutorial will be linked to it on the website.

Group 7, UW Bothell: Ken Jones reported they have not met yet since the second Tuesday falls into next week.

Group 8, UW Tacoma: Stephen Costanti reported their meeting will take place tomorrow. They completed their document outlining faculty responsibilities for student safety and received nice new radios to help coordinate emergency evacuations. The new campus assembly hall was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Group 9, Engineering: Jack Herndon said they had no OARS reports to review. Aeronautical Engineering has been experiencing long delays in their hazardous waste
being picked up. Bio-Engineering has had a couple of evacuations: one due to a steam line break; one due to a chemical spill. Engineering has had a difficult time finding volunteer wardens. They plan to train more people to maintain adequate coverage.

**Group 10, Forest Resources**: David Zuckerman reported having no OARS cases to review. David sent out an urgent e-mail to evacuation wardens to get their confirmations. The new OARS has gotten rave reviews. Incoming freshmen are being provided with an information sheet on wood shop safety protocol. Forest Resources has applied for a grant to apply herbicides to the tenacious Garden Loosestrife and some other wetland noxious weeds.

**Group 11, Ocean & Fishery Science**: not present.

**WFSE 1488**: Paul Bentson noted no safety issues at the moment.

**UAW 4121**: John Freudenthal reported not meeting, yet.

**SEIU 925**: Larry Sommers reported no safety issues at the moment.

**Note**: Denis Sapiro made sure we were all invited to the retirement party for EH&S Director, Karen VanDusen, on October 21st.

4. **Presentation: EH&S Building and Fire Safety - Mark Murray and Darren Branum “Recent Fire Safety Activity”**

**Fire Academy**: Mark described the recent “Fire Academy,” a 2-day training workshop given by the Seattle Fire Department and the University of Washington for Resident Advisors (RAs) in UW residence halls. The intent was to use classroom and practical approaches to improve general fire safety awareness and evacuation and reporting skills – and to have fun doing it. Training included a “Hazard Hunt” to find and list all the hazards purposely set up in a dormitory setting. Other exercises included navigating a (fake) smoke-filled corridor and fire extinguisher training. 110 RAs participated in the academy (100% turnout) plus help from other units. Dormitories are required to conduct fire drills at least once a quarter.

In August, the Higher Education Act was passed. This is a new law that specifically targets residence halls. The Act requires the UW to produce an annual report which describes the status of fire programs and equipment in buildings used for student residence. An article in University Week comes out this week that describes more detail.

Mark distributed the following handouts:

- A colorful flyer by the National Center for Fire Safety displays a new theme, “Everybody Graduates.” This is an example of what other campuses are doing to promote Fire Safety Month.
- Sparling Electrical Consultants – recommendations for building fire safety and protection against wildfires
Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL):
Darren discussed the recent survey/review of the fire safety program at Friday Harbor Laboratories. FHL is located on 400 acres of heavily forested land with fire issues. First they looked at large building-life safety issues addressed by standard annual fire safety surveys then examined FHL vulnerability to forest fire and lack of maintenance. For example, roads were found to be about 12 ft. wide. To be effective as a fire brake, they need to be 20 ft. wide. Many buildings are residential. Improvements in the fire protection of buildings include:

- Dorm fire alarm replacement has been completed.
- Fernald automatic sprinklers and fire alarms are in the design stage
- Lab 9 sprinklers being done
- Dining Hall sprinklers being done
- Fire alarm network and monitoring being done

Wildland-urban interface improvements were also addressed. Recommendations gave top priority to:

- Develop an evacuation plan
- Incorporate Department of Natural Resources (DNR) IFPL system – ignition sources identified
- Move cigarette receptacles away from dry grass
- Increase clearance around propane tanks to 10 feet
- Use fire resistant materials in the construction of new buildings

Tier #2 recommendations included:

- Spark arresters on chimneys
- Enclose exterior openings to building underfloors
- Provide defensible space

Tier #3 (long term) recommendations included:

- Fire extinguishers in vehicles
- Provide turnouts for access roads
- Create defensible space along the north margin of property
- Wildland fire detection system – sensors on top of buildings spray fire retardant automatically when heat is sensed
- Wildfire fighting/protection equipment.

Fire Safety Information Booths:
Watch for information booths for campus fire safety:

- Seattle – October 14th
- Tacoma – October 15th
- Bothell – October 22nd
- Handouts, prizes and Fire Department personnel will be on hand.

Reminders:
Sunday, November 2nd, when your clocks “Fall back”, remember to:

- Change the batteries in your smoke detector
- Change the water in your emergency/disaster kit
- Take a fire extinguisher training class
- Sign up for UW Alert
Common Violations:
Darren concluded the presentation with slides of common violations found in fire and life safety surveys (e.g., blocked fire doors and aisles, improper wiring, messy housekeeping).

6. EH&S Report – L&I Inspections:
Denis Sapiro first updated us on the asbestos signage project.
- The HUB is currently being labeled according to the agreement with L&I. Inspectors will be on campus October 22nd to review progress and agree to continue labeling throughout the University. Every building will be labeled within 3 years. Only friable asbestos is being labeled (e.g., pipe insulation). Materials such as floor tile (which are non-friable) will not be labeled. Promotional pencils are being distributed which are imprinted with the web address for the online asbestos training.
- The L&I compliance inspection at HMC for public safety officer hazards has been appealed in part with settlement conferences to start in September.
- The HMC Environmental Services floor care and floor cleaning indoor air quality inspection closed without violation.
- L&I continues to investigate the electrician’s electrical shock, fall, and broken hip accident in the Health Sciences Building. Interviews are still underway.

Other news:
- EH&S has produced a new poster promoting the use of safety glasses.
- The policy revision for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is getting final touches. However, it could take another month or two before it’s available.
- Animals on campus: the WAC has been revised, but must go through stakeholder review. Requirements/restrictions for assist dogs in training have become a question.

7. New Business:

If you would like to see a specific topic addressed by the U-Wide in the next few months, please let Michael or Denis know.

The “UW Tacoma Classroom Emergency Procedures for Faculty” is available for you to look at. Send an e-mail request to Michael (blalock@u.washington.edu) and she will send you a copy. The document was developed by the Group 8 Tacoma Organizational Safety Committee.

8. Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ron Fouty.