UNIVERSITY-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2008 1:00-2:30 pm – UW Club, Lower Level Conference Room

In Attendance
Ron Fouty (2)
Paul Zuchowski (3)
Barbara Lovseth (4)
Bob Ennes (4)
Peter Rackers (5)
Tracy Harvey (6)
Larry Sommers (SEIU Local 925)
Stephen Costanti (8)
Michael McMillan (8)
Jack Herndon (9)
David Zuckerman10)
Kristian Haapa-aho (11)

In Attendance
Elizabeth Dahl (Ex-O, AGO)
Carol Garing (Crtv Com)
Stan Addison, Guest Speaker
David Leonard (EH&S)
Denis Sapiro (EH&S)
Michael Merrill (EH&S)
Wendy Winslow-Nason (Ex-O, RM)

Not Present
Leslie Anderson (1)
Connie Bartlett (1)
Pete Federici (2)
Diane Hanks (3)
Chuck Treser (4)
Ed Farnham (4)
John Freudenthal (UAW Local 4121)
Megan Amen (5)
Jan Whittington (5)
Sherri Huber (6)
Deborah Conley Staerk (7)
Ken Jones (7)
Margery Cooper (10)
Ray Hartman (11)
Paul Bentson (WFSE 1488)
Bill Armstrong (Ex-O, FS)
Steve Charvat (UWEM)

Agenda
1. Call to order
2. Minutes
3. Presentation: Stan Addison, EH&S, UW Radiation Safety Officer,
4. Group Reports – Union Reports
5. OARS Version 2 Update
6. EH&S Report – L&I inspections
7. New Business: New Director, EH&S
8. Adjournment

Recorded: by Michael Merrill
1. Meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Fouty. Introductions.

2. There being a quorum, November Minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Presentation: “UW Radiation Safety Update” – Stan Addison, EH&S, UW Radiation Safety Officer
Stan said he wanted to talk about two things, (a) responsibilities held by his EH&S Office and (b) the UW security program for radioactive materials.

The EH&S Radiation Safety Office provides oversight and guidance regarding the safe use of radioactive materials and radiation producing machines at the University of Washington.

Security Concerns: After September 11, 2001, new concerns emerged regarding security of radioactive materials. A survey done by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) determined that a radiation source is “lost” somewhere in the United States on average of once a day – only about half of these are ever recovered. It is important to:
- Lock up materials when they are not being used (mandated by the State Department of Health)
- Lock lab doors when a lab is unattended
- Challenge unknown visitors to the area

In 2005, a massive program was established to provide locks to UW labs, either commercial lock boxes or “in-house” manufactured locks. Literally hundreds of locks were made and installed by Radiation Safety staff on campus – typically cable/loop devices glued to an item (similar to computer locks) which can be installed on multiple surfaces like freezers, refrigerators, cabinets, drawers, fume hoods, etc.

Next, there was increased security for very large radiation sources. The State Department of Health issued a court order, to be implemented in 2006, to identify certain large radioactive sources as “Sources of Concern.”
- Physically large
- Radioactively large

“Increased Controls” (IC’s) were specified to be implemented on Sources of Concern.
Two key IC’s required:
- The UW to continuously monitor in order to immediately detect, assess, and respond to attempts of unauthorized access to Sources of Concern.
- All individuals having unescorted access must be “Trustworthy and Reliable” (T&R).
- Fingerprinting was instituted to further assure “Trustworthiness and Reliability.”
  - In 2008, IC’s were amended to include fingerprinting of individuals who wanted access to Sources of Concern
  - Prints are sent to FBI for criminal history and identity check.

An oversight in the original IC’s did not identify who within an organization could deem someone to be T&R. Therefore, each licensee must designate an individual to be the “Trustworthiness and Reliability” Official. All satisfactory T&R determinations must be documented in writing and signed by the T&R Official. The Officer overseeing the UW
program must also be “trustworthy and reliable.” This person was Karen VanDusen and is now Stan Addison.

The UW Research Reactor ceased operation in 1988. Since then it has been decommissioned, at a cost of $4 million. After 9/11, it was renamed to More Hall Annex. Most decommissioning took place during the summer of 2006. It remains a hollow shell with a concrete monolith inside. The site was released and its license terminated in September, 2007. Had that occurred a month earlier, the site would have been cleared and re-seeded. However, concerns about hillside stability during the fall/winter delayed site clearing.

An Architecture student led a group to “Save the Reactor” from bulldozers claiming it was an historical site (although nothing of note ever happened there). It was eventually placed on the Washington Heritage Register where it has special exemption as “important to nuclear history and distinctive Northwest architecture.”

Q: Does the site continue to be an expense to the UW?
A: The primary cost is that the site isn’t available for other uses while the UW is continuing to expand and developable land is in short supply. The College of Engineering, for example, wanted to build there but funding never materialized.

Q: How many radioactive sources are missing at the UW?
A: Missing are mostly “industrial sources,” i.e. for well-logging where radiation bounce-back tells what’s there. This technique is used on building side walls to determine presence of metal or differences in material density. (Steel waste is slightly radioactive.) Industrial sources are known to be stolen out of work trucks. Sources could also be used to locate radioactive patient waste, which could mistakenly end up in the trash. The presence of Nickel 63, in a lead-lined canister, once helped to locate the item in a recycle dumpster.

Q: How does UW radioactive waste get disposed of?
A: Several ways:
- Natural radioactive decay (Carbon 14 and H3 on gloves, paper, etc.)
- Liquids are absorbed in buckets of diatomaceous earth (so they don’t leak) and then sealed for shipment to California for “super-compacting” or to Hanford for burial.

4. Group Reports – Union Reports

Group 1, Administration/Other Academic Programs: not present.

Group 2, Finance and Facilities: Ron Fouty reported postponing their meeting to December.

Group 3, Student Affairs: Paul Zuchowski reported that Schmitz Hall now has emergency lighting in their stairwells – and many new asbestos labels (there have been a couple of concerned parents). They reviewed new OARS reports.
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Group 4, Health Sciences/Hospitals: Barbara Lovseth reported they will be combining November and December meetings on 12/16/08.

Group 5, Architecture & Urban Planning: Peter Rackers reported a plan to improve lighting in a couple of areas, such as the bike racks behind Architecture Hall.

Group 6, Arts & Sciences: Larry Sommers reported cancelling their meeting due to lack of attendance.

Group 7, UW Bothell: not present.

Group 8, UW Tacoma: Stephen Costanti reported 2 new OARS reports needed more information. The Committee discussed providing feedback to supervisors. CPR classes are coming up. Newly received radios were distributed to Evacuation Wardens. They’re still working on their EEOP (Emergency Evacuation Operations Plan).

Group 9, Engineering: Jack Herndon told us Michael Glidden has changed jobs and is now in Group 9, rather than Group 3.

Group 10, Forest Resources: David Zuckerman reported two OARS reports needed more information. They are still working on Evacuation Warden training.

Group 11, Ocean & Fishery Science: Kristian Haapa-apo reported having no OARS reports to review for November. There was discussion of the recent event aboard the RV Thompson. They are still working on their Health & Safety Plan and Emergency Evacuation and Operations Plan.

WFSE 1488: Paul Bentson not present.

UAW 4121: John Freudenthal not present.

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

5. OARS Version 2 Update:  
Denis Sapiro reported EH&S is on schedule on go online 1/1/09 with Version 2 of OARS. The new system will be available at the old website,  
http://www.ehs.washington.edu/ohsoars/index.shtml. Following it will be pretty straightforward and you should find the auto-fill feature for personal data works really well. A PowerPoint presentation will be available to groups and work units.

For the first few months while small tweaks are made consider OARS 2 to be a “work in progress.” “Reminder” e-mails will be similar to the old system, but more specific. Articles are planned for University Week and The Daily to introduce the system and a poster will be sent via several distribution lists that Barb McPhee has access to.

6. EH&S Report – L&I Inspections:  
- Denis reported that we are still waiting for official blessing from L&I regarding HMC Public Safety Officers – part of the compliance inspection is still in the
appeal process with the settlement conferences continuing. Expect finalization after start of New Year.

- L&I investigation closed on the electrician’s electrical shock in the Health Sciences Building. Facilities Services received one serious violation (with fine to be determined) and one general violation (no fine). Lockout/tagout (LOTO) procedures now require supervisors and managers to verify in an annual document that this safety system was followed correctly. If it wasn’t, it must be done again and shown it was eventually done right. This policy is not new, perse, but is new to the UW. More than training is involved: actual observation must accompany documentation. Supervisor training is being developed to include this revision – both live and online. Committee members are encouraged to give OHS/EH&S ideas how this can be done. (Note: Ron Fouty requested a LOTO presentation to Group 2 after the citation is received.)

- L&I received a new complaint from UW plumbers who felt they were not being adequately informed about potential hazards when they entered labs and animal research areas in the Health Sciences Building. Interviews of the plumbers are currently being reviewed and several requested documents have been provided.

- Harborview employees and managers cooperated well in the discussion about protection of “meal host” personnel who deliver food trays to certain patient rooms. No violation was found. Before the complaint was filed, L&I was brought in for consultation. HMC will be working with employees to improve training understanding and clarity on PPE needs.

Other comments:
- Nutria, a type of rodent that has been causing problems in UW wetlands, will be eliminated this winter using traps.
- A word of caution concerning elevator maintenance personnel: if a worker is injured, you must contact the special section of L&I dealing with elevators, NOT the L&I safety people.
- Asbestos labeling, required by L&I, has been completed in the HUB, Schmitz Hall, and a couple of others as the process continues.

6. New Business:
Bob Ennes brought up a new effort underway to define a facility-wide policy regarding hallway “storage” in buildings such as the Health Sciences Building and the Quaternary Research and Aerospace buildings. Past Notices of Violation (NOV’s) will be reviewed in the process. The Seattle Fire Department, EH&S, and building occupants are working as a team to decide what will be allowed. Other campuses have used a permit system with tags attached to hallway items.

Barbara McPhee continues to serve as Acting EH&S Director during the search for a replacement for Karen VanDusen who retired. Three finalists are scheduled for interviews on 12/8/08, 1/5/09, and 1/12/09.

Jack Herndon extended a big THANK YOU to grounds maintenance personnel for doing such a good job cleaning up “leaf slop” from the Burke-Gilman Trail and buildings.

7. Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ron Fouty.