UNIVERSITY-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2009 1:00-2:30 pm – UW Club Conference Room

In Attendance

Connie Bartlett (1)
Leslie Anderson (1)
Ron Fouty (2)
Carol Garing (Crtv Com)
Paul Zuchowski (3)
Barbara Lovseth (4)
Chuck Trese (4)
Tracy Harvey (6)
Laura Davenport (SEIU - 925)
Michael McMillan (8)
Stephen Costanti (8)
Jack Herndon (9)
Michael Glidden (9)
David Zuckerman10)

In Attendance

Paul Bentson (WFSE 1488)
Elizabeth Dahl (Ex-O, AGO)
Tracey Mosier (Ex-O, FS)
Jude Van Buren EH&S)
David Leonard (EH&S)
Denis Sapiro (EH&S)
Michael Merrill (EH&S)
Jon Hooper (Guest)
Wendy Winslow-Nason (Ex-O, RM)

Not Present

Diane Hanks (3)
Bob Ennes (4)
Rich Lee (4)
Megan Amen (5)
Susie Sargent (5)
Sherri Huber (6)
Ken Jones (7)
Margery Cooper (10)
Rick Gleason (Fac. Senate)

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Minutes for November
3. Presentation: Fall and Winter Preparations for Safe Walkways at the Seattle Campus
4. Committee (HSC) and Union Reports
5. EH&S Report and L&I Inspections
6. Adjournment

Recorded: by Michael Merrill
1. Meeting was called to order and facilitated by Ron Fouty.

2. November minutes were approved as written.

3. Presentation: Fall and Winter Preparations for Safe Walkways at the Seattle Campus

Presenter, Jon Hooper, is the Facilities Services Manager for Facilities and for the Central Zone and Maintenance and Alterations.

The UW goal for road snow removal is to make the campus accessible to emergency vehicles, public transportation, students, staff and faculty. There are about 15 miles of roads on the Seattle campus (55 acres). You can locate pathway and road routes on the Facilities Services website.

Within the first few hours, the first priority is to plow all the essential access areas and the main roads on campus and the medical center. Once these roads are cleared, priority shifts to secondary roads and then parking lot access. Medical Center staff parking areas are a priority. Pathways are also cleared by priority.

Once the roads are plowed, sanding is done only in areas where traction is required. Sanding is kept to a minimum to reduce the expense of clean up and storm drain contamination. Salt isn’t used, due to environmental concern, but safe de-icers are used occasionally, when necessary.

Continual plowing and sanding is done as necessary to keep roads accessible for emergency vehicles. Campus police determine road closures. As with sidewalks, concentration in on keeping snow accumulation to a minimum to reduce build up of ice. High injury areas include expanses of brick or concrete, such as in front of the HUB or Grant Lane.

Seattle campus snow removal equipment includes:

- 2 dump truck snow plows
- 1 1-ton with a hydraulic directional plow and a sanding unit
- 1 road grader
- 2 sanding units
- 2 backhoes
- 2 rotary brooms
- 1 Bobcat skid loader
- 1 de-icer sprayer

Facilities Services has a “hit list” of 5-6 trained personnel who are called in when campus police feel there is a need for snow or ice removal. This crew operates snow plows and sands sidewalks. (There are about 45 full-time staff.) Once at work, personnel are available by radio, cell phone and/or pager to respond to specific needs.

After the snow has melted street sweepers are dispatched to clean the roads and walkways of sand and debris.

Jon handed out “instructions” for walking on ice and snow. Advice included:
How to Walk:

- Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time.
- When walking on steps always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.
- On walkways, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction.
- Bend your knees a little and stop occasionally to break momentum.
- Streets and sidewalks that have been cleared of snow and ice should still be approached with caution.
- Look out for “black ice.” Dew, fog or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. It often shows up early in the morning or in areas that are shaded from the sun.
- A heavy backpack or other load can challenge your sense of balance. Try not to carry too much and leave your hands and arms free to better balance yourself.
- Be prepared to fall and try to avoid using your arms to break your fall. If you fall backwards, make a conscious effort to tuck your chin so your head doesn’t strike the ground with full force.
- When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your boots as you can. Take notice that floors and stairs may be wet and slippery. Walk carefully.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles – use the vehicle for support.

Where to Walk:

- Walk on sidewalks if possible.
- If sidewalks are covered with snow and ice, one option is to walk along their grassy edges for traction.
- If you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as you can.
- Taking shortcuts through areas where snow and ice removal is not feasible can be hazardous.
- Avoid areas around construction sites. The snow may be covering holes and sharp objects.
- **Avoid areas where there is danger of falling ice.** Icicles can fall quickly and silently.

Dealing With Traffic:

- Walk as close to the curb as possible while facing traffic. Always be aware of the movement of approaching traffic.
- Before you step off the curb to cross the street, make sure oncoming cars and trucks come to a complete stop.
- Motorists may not be able to stop at traffic signals or slow down for pedestrians who have the right of way.
- Be on the lookout for vehicles that may have lost traction and are slipping toward you.
It is imperative that drivers yield to snow-removal equipment during snow removal operations.

**What to Wear:**
- Dress warmly and wear boots with non-skid soles. Avoid plastic and leather soles.
- Keep warm but make sure your clothing doesn't block your hearing or vision. You need to know what's going on around you. Wear a bright hat or scarf or reflective gear so drivers can see you.
- During the day, wear sunglasses to help you see better and avoid hazards.
- At night, wear bright clothing or reflective gear. Dark clothing makes it hard for motorists to see you – especially if they aren't expecting you.

**4. Committee (HSC) and Union Reports**

**HSC 1**, Administration/Other Academic Programs: Leslie reported reviewing one fairly serious accident. The Committee approved the minutes for the last 4 months due to lack of a quorum. They reviewed their election progress. The Committee’s new term roster has only one unit that’s not directly represented.

**HSC 2**, Finance and Facilities: Carol reported having a fabulous presentation by the UWPD’s Crime Prevention Unit. There were lots of questions pertaining to issues not covered by the presentation. This presentation is highly recommended! Oars reports were also reviewed.

**HSC 3**, Student Affairs: Paul Zuchowski reported their elections are complete. Some appointments may be added.

**HSC 4**, Health Sciences/Hospitals: Barb reported her Committee’s accident review sub-committees gave summary reports for HMC and the UWMC. In the future these will be covered by the new #12 Health & Safety Committee for UW Medicine. (Other methods are going to be considered for reviewing OARS reports.) Melinda Young from the Primate Center identified 39 issues to look at – more classes from EH&S?

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

**HSC 6**, Arts & Sciences: Tracy Harvey reported reviewing OARS reports. Elections are finished.

**HSC 7**, UW Bothell: late arrival of members.

**HSC 8**, UW Tacoma: Steve Costanti said they will meet tomorrow. They have 2 OARS reports to review. One involved a cement truck hitting a pole.

**HSC 9**, Engineering: Jack Herndon reported watching a video “Earthquake Preparedness” which was a little dated but interesting. The reviewed 2 incidents, one involving a hand caught in an elevator door. They are looking at air quality in copy rooms. Elections are done.
HSC 10, Forest Resources: Dave Zuckerman said
They reviewed 2 OARS reports. They are wrapping up school.

HSC 11, Ocean & Fishery Science: not present.

SEIU 925: Laura Davenport reported a “decent push” for SEIU representatives in safety committees. There has been a significant increase.

WFSE 1488: Paul Bentson had no comments.

Faculty Senate: Rick Gleason was not able to attend.

5. EH&S Report – L&I Inspections:
Denis Sapiro reported:

- We’re waiting for a new appointment to the U-Wide from the Graduate Student Union (UAW). The previous appointment graduated and left the University.

- L&I consultation requested on asbestos release in McMahon, June 15 – 26, 2009. Testing has shown no asbestos above PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit) and clearance limits at this point. EH&S is still working with consultants. Negative exposure assessment of custodial services for Housing and Food Services was conducted in McMahon. All results were below detection limits. Similar testing is planned for the HUB and dorms, Stevens Way to Lander.

- L&I is investigating an accident where an employee fell from a golf cart and broke her hip. The accident occurred on 11/11/09 and was not reported to EH&S until 11/30/09. We should know by next week whether a citation is involved. Hospitalizations of employees must be reported immediately to EH&S at 543-7262. It is an important educational outreach issue for committee members to inform their constituents that EH&S is required by law to report a hospitalization to L&I within 8 hours. After hours, contact the UW Police. A procedure exists for them to contact a representative of EH&S. Do not try to question whether the accident is work-related, or not – Risk Management and physicians will determine that later – just report it. Risk Management is developing an instruction card to describe this procedure.

- Question: Has there been a final decision by the UW and the SFD regarding allowable hallway storage – if so, how does it compare to previous policy?
  **Answer:** Yes, the decision is now finalized (see EH&S online Newsletter). It is much clearer now what is acceptable – most items are not. For specific questions, contact Mark Murray, EH&S Manager, Office of Building and Fire Safety.

6. Chair, Ron Fouty, adjourned the meeting.