The meeting was convened by Chair, Colleen Huls. Attendees introduced themselves.

**Members Present:** Eileen Bergt (Landscape Services), Roger Quiring (UHC), Colleen Huls (Information Services), Jane Wemhoff (Dining Services), Doug Rudeen (ARDC), Amy Lantham (CREC), Deb Pearson (Libraries), Edie Schleiger (UNOPA), Jan Deeds (Student Involvement/Women’s Center), Casey Johnson (UNLPD), Betsy Howe (EHS), Brenda Osthus (EHS).

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

**FY 2011-2012 (1st Quarter) Injury Incident Report**

Betsy Howe reviewed the fourth quarter injury incidents, Open Claims as of September 30, 2011, and Big 10 benchmarking (2009). Following is a recap:

- Of the 67 injury incidents between July 1 and September 30, 2011, 42 (62%) were classified as OSHA-recordable incidents considered potentially more serious. “Struck by/struck against” was the predominant category, with 19 incidents (28%).
- The top two work areas experiencing “Struck by/struck against” injuries was Food Service and Animal Handling, each with four incidents. Agriculture/Landscape was next with three incidents.
- Of these 42 incidents, the most prevalent causal factor was “Location/position problem (equipment or person)” with eight instances, followed by four instances each of “Inattention/distraction” and “Inadequate established procedure.” These causal factors can clearly be mitigated.
- There currently are 115 open active claims as of September 30, 2011, for which $5.5M has been paid. Of these, 18 claims exceed $100K with the total paid to date of $4.5M. Five claims are a result of Back Strain (lifting/pushing/reaching), five claims are a result of Falls (not ice). The category “Caught in/between Machinery” only has two claims, but one is by far the highest dollar incident within the group of 18 highest dollar active claims.
- Calendar Year 2009 Big 10 Injury and Illness Benchmarking data from five universities was distributed. The average rate of OSHA recordable cases (Number of cases x 200,000)/(Total Work Hours) was 2.3 for Big 10 reporting schools and 1.22 for UNL compared to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) average of 2.5. Cases with “Days Away from Work” averaged 0.47 for the reporting Big 10 schools and 0.48 for UNL compared to the BLS average of 0.6.

**FY 2011-2012 (1st Quarter) Safety Audit Report**

Moving forward, EHS will provide the CUSC an overview of results from safety audits conducted campus-wide during the previous quarter. Safety audits are conducted by EHS on a schedule of anywhere from quarterly to every three years, depending on hazards of the area and associated work tasks. Safety audit checklists used by EHS
were available for member review. An abbreviated version of these checklists is online at: http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/#audit

The Safety Audit report presented highlighted the most common deficiencies in the different classifications of space at UNL:

- The most common office area deficiency was the use of extension or flexible cords on a permanent basis. Such cords must only be used on a temporary basis, that is, use and unplug.
- The most common deficiency in shops was gas cylinders not properly restrained. Compressed gas cylinders, whether in the shop or laboratory must be secured above the midpoint but below the shoulder.
- In laboratories the most prevalent deficiencies related to chemicals: Chemical containers left open when not in immediate use; Chemicals not stored in a safe manner e.g. incompatible chemicals stored in proximity; Entrances to areas where hazardous chemicals are used/stored are not identified with signage to identify hazards.

Both Injury Incident and Safety Audit reports specific to a department/facility are furnished by EHS to the identified safety committees on a quarterly basis.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Colleen Huls thanked Landscape Services for their rapid response to two concerns raised by UNL staff: (1) an issue with the sidewalk by Seaton Hall and (2) bushes blocking the view at the 17th & R Street Parking Garage, leading to an unsafe entry/exit situation.

Supplier Showcase
Thanks was extended to those who helped staff the CUSC booth. There were 352 registered attendees. 71 signed up to receive the monthly EHS Safety Listserv. An estimate of total attendees spoken to throughout the day is approximately 200.

Both handouts and the CUSC members staffing the booth highlighted:

- The “Core” Injury and Illness Prevention Plan and Emergency Preparedness training required by all who get a paycheck and the Chemical Safety training required by all who work with ANY chemicals.
- The EHS website itself and EHS Virtual Manual.
- A letter from Brenda Osthus, EHS Director, including information on signing up for UNL Alert through the Emergency Planning & Preparedness website.

NEW BUSINESS

Goals
Colleen reminded the committee that a few attainable goals should be set each year to serve as a focus of CUSC energy and activities. The committee determined that goals for FY 2011-2012 should be:
• Raise awareness of the CUSC by outreach to the campus community. For example, besides being publicized on the UNL calendar, this Open Forum meeting was advertised in Today@UNL, a widely read email distributed daily. Publicity for the next Open Forum in April 2012 will include more clearly how to share concerns with the Chair or other committee members.

An additional component to raise awareness is individual committee member outreach efforts. Every member has different avenues of communication open to them, and the CUSC must tap into as many as possible. “Word of mouth” is one of the most effective communication tools. Individual members were reminded to keep “awareness” at the forefront of all endeavors that might lend themselves to sharing safety information, e.g. highlighting safety information from the EHS listserv through their own department/area listserv, posting such highlights on department web sites, and seizing every opportunity to “educate their own department”.

• Reinvigorate the CUSC membership itself. Secure active participation from those departments represented on the CUSC, but with inconsistent attendance. Toward that goal, EHS will furnish a toll free number so members from throughout the state or out of town on business may attend without incurring long distance fees. Colleen will work with departments/facilities to determine an alternate member in those cases where the currently assigned member has been unable to attend CUSC meetings.

• A two-year, two-pronged goal was established relating to safety committees at the department/facility level. First, identify departments without safety committees which could benefit from one. Examples would be departments with higher levels of injury incidents and those where higher hazard tasks/research are conducted.

Second, encourage current safety committees to become active/increase their level of activity. An active safety committee would be expected to review injury incident and safety audit information provided by EHS and use that information for targeted safety awareness. An active safety committee would ensure that any applicable safety training is being taken, whether provided by EHS, through other resources at UNL, or by the department, for example, using an outside vendor.

There currently are 41 safety committees EHS is aware of. 20 self-identify as “active.” Eight are designated as an e-committee. An e-committee is a department/area where safety is handled by management and/or there is no committee but there is a contact person who has asked to receive safety information from EHS, and then disseminates such information.

There are a number of active safety committees that might serve as a model to others. Members should come prepared with ideas on specifically how a
mentoring relationship between active and less/non-active safety committees might most effectively be pursued.

EHS has been developing a Safety Committee Toolkit and will bring samples of what they have been working on for committee review. Members are asked to bring concrete suggestions of types of information they think should be included in a Toolkit to assist Safety Committees get started or reinvigorate.

To ensure that future iterations of the CUSC continue goal-setting, this task will be added to the Chancellor’s University Safety Committee guidelines document.

CLOSING REMARKS
The next meeting will be January 17, 2012, at UNLPD. A toll free call-in number provided by EHS will be furnished to committee members for remote attendance with no long distance fees.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colleen Huls.