

Chancellor's University Safety Committee

Quarterly Meeting

March 12, 2002; 1:30 pm

City Campus Union

Present: Paul Harmon (College of Engineering), Greg Maguire (Housing), Harry Hale (Libraries), Chris Oelling (Campus Rec), Clarice Martin (Housing), Yoko Smith (Environmental Health and Safety), Amy Fisher (UNOPA), Kay Schupbach (Community and Regional Planning), John Branson (Transportation), Greg Clayton (Risk Management and Benefits), Clyde Burkholder (Maintenance), Ken Walvoord (Custodial), Mark Blackford (Animal Science), Brenda Osthus (Environmental Health and Safety), Nick Huser (Environmental Health and Safety), Judy Prochaska (City Campus Utilities), Mark Schroeder (ARDC), Judy Roots (General Council), Steve DiMagno (Chemistry), Anita Sisco (SNRS), Daniel Snow (Agronomy), Daryl Kinnan (Chemistry), Jill Hyslop-Bohling (Environmental Health and Safety).

Introductions The meeting was called to order by Paul Harmon at 1:30. Paul welcomed attendees and asked them to introduce themselves.

Slip Resistant Footwear Greg Maguire from Housing introduced Clarice Martin and asked her to share her findings on slip resistant footwear with the committee. Clarice said that employees in Dining Services had been wearing different types of footwear to determine which type gave the most protection against slips, trips and falls. Her group was also interested in the comfort level of the shoes. Five people from different areas of the kitchen tried the "Shoes for Crews" overshoe for 2 ½ months. Results: 1) The overshoe went on and off easily, 2) employees were happy with the comfort level, 3) the overshoe fit over a variety of shoe types, 4) the overshoe was very durable, and finally, 5) the overshoe provided great slip resistance. Following this test, twenty to twenty five employees who work in high slip hazard areas have chosen to wear the overshoe. Paul Harmon suggested that information on this and other slip resistant shoes be posted on the EHS web site. Information will also be sent to high risk work areas.

EHS Activity Report Brenda Osthus presented the EHS activity report. The Occupational Safety group recently assisted in the transfer of Occupational Medicine Services from Heartland COMP to St. Elizabeth's Company Care. Safety audits and training were provided to many Research and Extension Centers. The Biosafety Guidelines have been updated and posted to the EHS website, the Respiratory Protection Program is up and running, and many employees have been fit tested for respirator use. The Confined Space Program is being updated and will include guidance for entry into grain bins. Currently, the Hazardous Communication and Chemical Hygiene web based training components are being revised. Updates are continuing on the Lead and Asbestos programs.

The Radiation Safety Group has given their annual refresher training to approximately 600 people. The security review and updates are nearly complete.

The Environmental Program welcomed Naeem Ebrahim to their group. The EP group has been busy identifying and implementing a new waste stream that includes computers and most electronics. The biennial reports have been completed and Phase II of the City Campus Waste Accumulation Area is in progress. Extensive safety audits were conducted at the research and extension centers. A checklist of environmental concerns was developed to aid Extension Center Directors.

Other EHS news includes the resignation of Deb McGuire, an employee of EHS for many years. A Nebraska Clean Indoor Act inspection took place on campus recently. The inspectors were looking for signs of people smoking cigarettes indoors. The EHS newsletter is now offered electronically only. Supervisor training has been tied into Human Resources Supervisor Series. Brenda is serving on a committee that will revise the Local Emergency Operations Plan. Finally, many indoor air quality calls were received this past quarter as well as an emergency call from a problem in Behlen.

Nick Huser discussed the accidents from the past quarter. The same types of injuries are occurring as in last quarter. Strains are the most common injury reported followed by lacerations and bruises. The greatest number of accidents occurred in the following areas: 1) Custodial, 2) Food Services, 3) IANR, and 4) Maintenance. See charts attached.

Passenger Van Safety Update Greg Clayton gave an update on the passenger van safety problem. As reported at previous meetings, fully loaded fifteen passenger vans have been involved in injuries and deaths at multiple Universities across the country. UNL needed to address this problem immediately to reduce the risk to our employees and students. Greg and Mike Cacak from Transportation Services met with high frequency users of fifteen passenger vans to discuss safe alternatives. Information gathered from these meetings was formalized into a report that was presented to Vice Chancellor Jackson. The report included the following recommendations for the safe use of University Vans: 1) require driver training for all persons who operate a 15 passenger van, 2) all 15 passenger vans would be limited to a capacity of 10 people, 3) limit the driving time for all vehicles not just vans, 4) remove all trailer hitches from 15-passenger vans, 5) no driver younger than 21 would be allowed to drive a 15-passenger van and 6) limit speed to 65mph on all 15 passenger vans. The University will be phasing out the 15-passenger van and will purchase 12 passenger vans in the future. Greg is waiting for a response from the Vice Chancellor's office.

New Member Recruitment Paul thanked the people in attendance for showing interest in serving on the CUSC. The CUSC wants members that represent a cross-section of the University campus. Meetings are held quarterly and members must be willing to serve on subcommittees. Names were gathered and an Email of CUSC information will be sent to prospective members.

Open Forum Paul asked if any one would like to bring a safety issue to the committee. Brenda reported a call from a concerned citizen about safety conditions at concession stands within Devaney. Brenda will be looking into these safety problems.

Mark Schroeder commented that with the EHS Newsletter issued electronically only, some employees no longer had access to this information. He said he had to print the newsletter to share with his employees because they didn't have their own computers. Ken Walvoord said this was a problem with his employees, too. Brenda reminded the committee that it is the responsibility of each supervisor to share information with his or her employees. It was suggested that the newsletter could be printed and posted on a common bulletin board and/or copies made and circulated with a sign off sheet. In this way, supervisors would have a record of employees having access to this safety information.

Closing Remarks Paul thanked everyone for attending. An Email will be forthcoming to prospective members. Information on slip resistant footwear will be sent to high-risk areas. The next CUSC meeting will be June 11, 2002, 1:30 PM at East Campus.