Chancellor’s University Safety Committee (CUSC) Meeting
OPEN FORUM
Tuesday, September 16, 2014   -   3:00-4:00 p.m.
Nebraska City Union
Call-in @ 2:50 p.m.: (888) 820-1398, Code 3646181#
(*0=operator help, *6=mute/unmute own line)

AGENDA

1. Introductions & Welcome                Lynn Doser

2. Old Business
   A. Emergency Planning update           Mark Robertson
   B. Progress toward CUSC goals
   C. Update on Defensive Driving Course  Brenda Osthus
   D. Other old business

3. New Business
   A. Supplier Showcase – 10/21/14        Lynn Doser
   B. Welcome (SCs) representatives – resources  Lynn Doser
   C. Laboratory Safety Colloquium – 10/29/14  Betsy Howe
   D. Near-Miss/Close Call & Student Injuries  Betsy Howe
   E. Other new business

4. Adjourn                                Lynn Doser

Upcoming Meetings (at UNLPD, 300 N. 17th St. unless otherwise specified):
• November 18, 2014  (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports (July-September 2014)
• January 20, 2015   (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports (October-December 2014)
• March 17, 2015     OPEN FORUM Nebraska East Union
• May 19, 2015       (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports (January-March 2015)
• July 21, 2015      (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports (April-June 2015)

Goal FY 2014-15:
To help foster UNL employee awareness of the individual’s role in their own personal safety,
that of their co-workers, and safety/injury prevention in general at UNL. To foster completion
of safety training by UNL employees, using the EHS Employee Training Needs
Assessment, as a first step.
The meeting was convened by Chair, Lynn Doser (Sheldon Museum of Art). Lynn welcomed new members Mari Greer, Pat Dussault, and Andy Suyker (not in attendance). Attendees on site and remotely attending introduced themselves. Lynn sent around a CUSC Member List with the request that members review for any changes in phone number or campus address, an annual task.

Members: Larry Schmid (Housing), Mark Robertson (UNLPD), Beth Whitaker (School of Biological Sciences), Chanell Carpenter (UHC), Deb Pearson (Libraries), Jolene Deinert (Custodial Services), Jane Wemhoff (Housing Dining Services), Kyle Hansen (Campus Rec), Mari Greer (UNOPA), Sharon Clowser (VDC), Pat Dussault (Chemistry), Kim Phelps (University Services), Eileen Bergt (Landscape Services), Pat Shea (SNR for Dr. Suyker), Brenda Osthus (EHS), Betsy Howe (EHS support).

Safety Committee Chairs (attending remotely): Tamra Jackson-Ziems (Plant Pathology), Harshavardhan Thippareddi (Food Science)

Guest: Tyler Williams (Daily Nebraskan)

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency Planning & Preparedness Update

Mark Robertson noted that the UNL “blue phones” located in various locations on both UNL campuses and maintained as a means for students and staff to quickly connect to UNLPD dispatch will remain, at least for the time being. Recently, UNL students were asked to evaluate a cell phone app to summon emergency assistance while traversing campus. The students determined that accessing the 911 system was quicker than using the app and there is no fee for calling 911 but there is for the app.

UNL Alert, the primary method of emergency communication at UNL, is in the process of moving to an opt-out system, away from the current opt-in. This means that all UNL students, faculty & staff will automatically be signed up to receive an email from UNL Alert when an emergency notification is issued. To receive text notifications, people will still need to login and add their phone numbers. People may remove their name, or opt-out, if they do not wish to receive such notification. This new focus is supported at the highest levels of UNL administration.

Mark is working on development of safety posters for placement in classrooms and other areas around campus. The posters will include basic information on handling
various emergencies as well as space for building/room designation. Building/room is crucial information for summoning emergency assistance.

Another pending emergency preparedness project is with Alertus Technologies, a company which provides mass notification systems, unifying facility infrastructure and IT assets to streamline emergency notifications. Their product could send a UNL Alert message to all computers logged onto the UNL network so that classrooms and other areas which do not have the UNL home web page active would still get UNL Alert messages. This company also makes a product for a fee that may be used to provide emergency information in public spaces, giving an audible alert with flashing lights as well as subsequently reading and displaying any UNL Alert. This device would accommodate anyone deaf or blind.

The committee reviewed the award-winning “Really Obvious” video clips developed by Mark Robertson in collaboration with University Communications. The goal of the very short clips is to reinforce a variety of emergency preparedness and safety topics that faculty, staff and students should be familiar with. Each clip, lasting one minute or less, uses humor as a means to present and reinforce basic information. Further clips are being developed. A number of the members in attendance provided ideas for future topics during the meeting. Others can submit ideas to Mark Robertson, UNL Preparedness Coordinator, at preparedness@unl.edu. The “Really Obvious” series may be viewed online at: http://w.on24.com/r.htm?e=837158&s=1&k=58573B709838B573CE8E247C7F4097E8.

Progress toward the CUSC Goal

Betsy Howe reported that a number of departments in the past few months have begun requesting from EHS (a.) training records for current faculty and staff to determine a baseline of compliance with training requirements as outlined in the EHS Employee Training Needs Assessment, and (b.) regular updates regarding additional training taken. These departments are making a concerted effort to ensure their personnel take the two Core courses and any other training required based on job tasks of their personnel.

Most often this effort has been spearheaded by the safety committee, but not always. In some cases it has been in response to a ‘training deficiency’ cited as part of EHS safety and compliance surveys. Some of the departments requesting training record updates on a set schedule are: Nebraska Unions, UNLPD, Agronomy & Horticulture, Information Technology Services, Libraries, School of Natural Resources, Housing, and BSM.

Defensive Driving Course Update

Brenda Osthus indicated that there was overwhelming support for a defensive driving course. The research she and Patrick Barrett, Transportation Services
Director, are conducting will determine the Defensive Driving training options most feasible for UNL. They are reviewing two courses, one through the National Association of Fleet Managers and one through the Nebraska Safety Council. There is no intent to make this course a requirement for operation of a UNL vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

Supplier Showcase

Betsy Howe reported that she registered the CUSC for a booth at the fall Supplier Showcase put on by UNL Procurement in case the committee wants to again participate. The date is Tuesday, October 21, 2014, and the event will be held at the City Union from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The consensus was that the Supplier Showcase is good venue to reach a number of people with a safety message. Betsy reported that she has “Speak Out for Safety” stickers left from another event. Betsy will work with the committee on determining handouts and developing a 15 second ‘speech’ to convey the message determined. Lynn will be in contact with members to set-up, staff, and dismantle the booth.

Brenda shared that Patrick Barrett contacted her about a venue for the Nebraska State Patrol Rollover Simulator and Seat Belt Convincer safety programs. Brenda suggested the Supplier Showcase and these two pieces of equipment will be available on the Union Plaza October 21st while the Supplier Showcase is in progress.

Safety Committee Chair Welcome

A number of the CUSC members are Chairs/Members of their area safety committees. Lynn welcomed the two remote attendees who are not CUSC members.

Research Safety Colloquium

Betsy Howe informed members of the upcoming fall safety colloquium sponsored by EHS and the Office of Research and Economic Development. The topic this year, DISASTER! Protect Yourself & Your Research,” presented by Mark Robertson, UNL Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, is of relevance to all researchers. In the past, the fall and spring series of colloquia have more commonly targeted people working in chemical and biological laboratories.

There will be two sessions will be on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. The 10:00 a.m. – noon session will be at East Campus Union and the 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. session will be at Hamilton Hall, Room 102, each session including an interactive component. Pre-registration is not required. As with most other colloquia, this session is being recorded and will be available online a few weeks after the event.
Near Miss/Close Call and Student Injury Reporting

A handout was provided showing the prominent location of links under the heading “Report an Accident or Near-Miss” on the EHS web site, recently updated to the latest UNL template. These reporting tools are valuable to collect information on potential hazards so they can be mitigated before incidents with serious consequences occur. Information gathered is scrubbed of identifying components and a review including causal factors and mitigation strategies disseminated to the UNL campus community through the EHS listserv. There have been no reports over the past few months! It is unlikely that there have not been any near-misses anywhere at UNL. Members are asked to encourage those within their spheres of influence to use these tools.

Several members asked about student injury procedures and shared they have experience with the process for reporting visitor injuries. Lynn will check on whether the benefits office is notified of student injuries.

Student Involvement “Emergency” Fair on the Union Plaza

Mark Robertson said that Student Involvement is planning another event in collaboration with FEMA/NEMA similar to the one sponsored within the past year. Those CUSC members who attended the last time commented that they were able to network with peers involved in some capacity relating to safety, but booth attendance was minimal. Therefore the CUSC will not have a booth. Mark said the UNLPD will have a booth and would be happy to distribute anything the CUSC decides to hand out.

Concern with Laboratory Safety

Pat Shea, School of Natural Resources faculty, shared concerns about laboratory safety stating that he has observed numerous people working in laboratories without observing basic safety rules, such as wearing appropriate lab attire in addition to personal protective equipment, e.g. open-toed shoes such as flipflops, shorts instead of long pants, no safety glasses or goggles, etc. He encouraged adoption of some sort of enforcement mechanism for laboratory safety deficiencies with support by the Administration.

Pat Dussault told the group about efforts by the Department of Chemistry, including development of a department-wide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policy with peer audits for compliance. Opt-out of the PPE policy is only allowed upon request and after review of specific criteria, e.g., research that involves no hazards, e.g. computer modeling. Beth Whitaker, School of Biological Sciences teaching lab manager, told the group about that department’s policies and enforcement re: PPE in teaching labs.
Brenda indicated that efforts to improve safety and institute a safety culture at UNL have been ongoing some time from the ground up. Recent discussions with Administrators in the Office of Research are focused on communications from the top down to enhance the laboratory safety culture at UNL.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2014, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the UNLPD Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. by Chair Lynn Doser.