Chancellor’s University Safety Committee (CUSC) Meeting
September 21, 2021   -   3:00-4:00 p.m.
OPEN FORUM

AGENDA

1. Introductions & Welcome (3:00 – 3:05 p.m.) Michael Straatmann

2. Open Forum (3:05 – 3:10 p.m.)

3. Old Business
   A. Heads Up! Yard signs, other promotion ideas (3:10 – 3:15 p.m.) Jody Wood
   B. Plan Ahead campaign report, ideas to promote (3:15 – 3:20 p.m.) Beth Whitaker
   C. Other Old Business

4. New Business
   A. Emergency planning & preparedness (3:20 – 3:25 p.m.) Mark Robertson
   B. March meeting date (3:25 – 3:30 p.m.) Betsy Howe
   C. Resource (3:30 – 3:40 p.m.) Tony Delaney
   D. Other new business

5. Adjourn Michael Straatmann

Proposed Meetings. EHS training room, Warehouse 1, 3630 East Campus Loop + Zoom.

- November 16, 2021 - (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports July-September 2021)
- January 18, 2022 - (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports October-December 2021)
- March 22, 2022 (March 13-20 UNL spring break) – Open Forum
- May 17, 2022 (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports January-March 2022)
- July 19, 2022 - (Injury/Illness & Safety Audit reports April-June 2022)

Goal FY 2021-2022:

*Develop, review, maintain lines of safety communication with the purpose of engaging the campus community, in particular by encouraging all to recognize and report “near misses” or potentially unsafe practices with this information to be used for educational purposes university wide.*
The meeting was convened at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, Michael Straatmann, for those attending in the EHS Training Room and by Zoom.

INTRODUCTIONS

Michael called on attendees and each provided the name of the department/facility they represent.

Members In Attendance: Jody Wood (Institutional Equity & Compliance), Ron Bacon (Custodial Services), Sandi Meyer (ARD), Martha Morton (Chemistry), Deb Royal (VDC), Lynn Doser (The Sheldon Museum of Art), Sharleen Roth (Housing), Jo Bialas (Business Operations & Risk Management), Jeff Witkowski (ARD Greenhouse), Anthony Delaney (Nutrition & Health Sciences), Jacob Sharrer for Clay Kelly (Utilities), Brent Freeman (Nebraska Unions), Peter Hilsabeck (Civil Engineering), Kyle Hansen (CREC), Sara Quinn (Office of Research), Mike Livingston (Agronomy & Horticulture), Susan Thomas (UNOPA), Eileen Bergt (Landscape Services), Jeremy Hiller (SNR), Brenda Osthus (EHS), Yoko Smith (EHS support), and Elizabeth (Betsy) Howe (EHS support).

Safety Committee Chairs: Andy Smriga (Nebraska East Union), Zach Sun (NCMN), Brent Morgan (Libraries), Adam Eakin (University Museum), Randi Houghtelling (NCTA), and Logan Dana (NEREC).

Open Forum

Yoko Smith, EHS liaison, informed the committee that she will be retiring at the end of October. She expressed thanks to all she has worked with over the past 20 years, whether through the CUSC or within their departments. Michael Straatmann thanked Yoko for her service to the CUSC.

OLD BUSINESS

Heads Up! Yard Signs. Jody Wood, Chair, reported that the Yard Sign subcommittee is in the process of selecting which graphics to reproduce as a yard sign.

Plan Ahead Campaign

Martha Morton, Chair, asked for a volunteer to replace Beth Whitaker who had to leave this subcommittee for now. Sharleen Roth volunteered. She
will be provided information to bring her up to speed on this project. Michael Straatmann thanked Beth for her service.

The committee met with UCOMM who wanted more specific examples to help them develop graphics for this campaign, that is primarily targeted toward UNL workers rather than students. Work to fulfill the UCOMM request is in progress. The source of information for the committee is the Injury Incident reporting Yoko provided the CUSC over the past year and information from the EHS monthly listservs.

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Emergency Planning & Preparedness**

Mark Robertson had a last-minute conflict and submitted in the following report.

- There have been many Preparedness Presentations to start the semester with more scheduled in October
- I have no further information from UCOMM (University Communications) about the Public Safety social media initiative

**March Meeting Date Discussion**

Betsy Howe noted that the regular March meeting date again falls over UNL Spring Break. In the past when that has occurred the CUSC moved their meeting date out a week. Those in attendance indicated that moving the date out a week would be preferred. Betsy will add the March Open Forum meeting into the UNL calendar. Outlook calendar invites will be sent out separately for March 2022 and May/July 2022.

**Continuation of Meetings In-Person & Zoom**

There was some question as to whether meetings in-person in addition to Zoom should continue. A number of members prefer in-person meetings or like the option of either method of attendance or prefer to attend via Zoom. Jody indicated that sound from EHS training room comes through very well for Zoom attendance, unlike sound at other venues in the past. Based on discussion, both the in-person and the Zoom options will remain available.

Members attending by Zoom asked to be able to see in-person attendees if possible. Due to room set-up only those in the first two rows or at the computer are visible. The Zoom screen was moved to replace the agenda so those attending in-person could see Zoom attendees projected.
Resource: Cleaning with a Sense of Curiosity

Anthony Delaney, new CUSC member, shared stories of his experiences as a research lab manager, in particular related to cleaning up labs unmonitored due to a PI no longer being assigned to that space. In one such lab he found dry chemicals expired, one chemical that looked ‘fuzzy’ and had crystals on the outside of the bottle, full flammables cabinet. He reached out to EHS about doing a lab clean out. His concern was an unmonitored lab containing quite a number of hazardous chemicals with primarily students going in and out. In such a space, chemicals “walk away” without appropriate awareness of hazards.

Another area of investigation was -80°C freezers. In the process of defrosting the freezers, it became apparent there were old items placed inside the freezer and forgotten, some of which were potentially hazardous and could cause serious long-term health consequences to the people working in those spaces. Tony suggested it is useful to conduct investigations of spaces with a sense of curiosity to ensure that the environment is safe for those who work in the space.

Jeff Witkowski told about investigating pesticide cabinets when he first started at the greenhouses. Many pesticides had damaged labels these products were disposed through EHS. At a department where he previously worked, he noted that professors come and go, sticking product into a cabinet. Once a researcher is gone, it takes someone with curiosity to take the initiative to determine what chemicals are still in use.

There was no new business.

CLOSING REMARKS

Michael Straatmann adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m., stating this set a record as typically meetings do not adjourn until right before or at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 16, 2021, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the EHS Training Room, Warehouse 1, 3630 East Campus Loop and via Zoom.