



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting #216, May 12, 2004

MEMBERS:

Cathy MacLean (P)	University Appointee	Anne Weeden (A)	DUAG
Marlene Daye-Smith (P)	University Appointee	Bill Freedman (A)	DFA
		Curtis McGrath (R)	DSU
Colin Stuttard (P)	University Appointee	David Clarke (P)	IUOE
Darrell Boutilier (R)	University Appointee	Dawn Korn (R)	NSGEU
Mateo Yorke (P)	University Appointee	Forest Fyfe (P)	DFA
Patrick McGrath (R)	University Appointee	Joe Dorey (P)	IUOE
Paul Amyotte (R)	University Appointee	Marvin Silver (R)	CUPE
Ruth Murray (P)	University Appointee		
William J. Louch (P)	(Director)	Jan Taylor McIntyre	(Recording Secretary)
	(P)resent - (R)egrets - (A)bsent		

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:05 am.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Draft minutes of the April 14, 2004 meeting were accepted as distributed, noting a spelling error in the Director's Report - Mobus should be Mobius. Moved by C. Stuttard, seconded by M. Yorke. Motion carried.

3. ITEMS ARISING

3.1 Safety Award

W. Louch reported on the Safety Award presentation held April 20, with Dr. Traves, Jim Cowan, Bryan Mason and Forest Fyfe, Chair of the Safety Committee attending. The event was held at Fenwick Place with most of those who were involved with the effort attending. Refreshments were enjoyed with photos and acceptance speeches.

F. Fyfe added the recognition was well received. M. Yorke also relayed on behalf of Fenwick staff and students, their appreciation of the Award and were pleased to have people visit their part of the campus. F. Fyfe asked if letters of appreciation could be sent to Dr. Traves, Mr. Cowan and B. Mason for their support and attendance at the presentation.

3.2 Mobius Award

W. Louch and B. Mason attended the 6th Annual RRFB Nova Scotia Mobius Environmental Awards luncheon and presentation on Tuesday, April 27, at the Brightwood Golf and Country Club in Dartmouth. Environmental educator and broadcaster Richard Zurowski was the keynote speaker. Named after the Mobius Loop - international symbol for recycling - the Award recognizes Nova Scotians, organizations and communities who have made significant contributions toward protecting the environment in reducing waste, recycling and composting. This year Dalhousie received 2 awards.

ChemEx - Dal's Laboratory Chemical Exchange Program since 1991, was the recipient as RRFB Nova Scotia Mobius Environmental Award of Industry Steward of the year. The program recycles surplus chemicals free of charge, saving participants money and reduces environmental impacts associated with waste disposal. The exchange program is used by Dalhousie Departments and other institutions in the area.

The Eco-Efficiency Centre, an off-site division of the School of Resource and Environmental Studies in Burnside, was the recipient as RRFB Nova Scotia Mobius Environmental for Waste Management Education. Developed as one of the first Eco-Business programs in Canada to assist businesses and became a model for developing other Eco-Efficiency Centres in other parts of the world. Also providing valuable hands-on experience and education for the business leaders of tomorrow - Co-op students - studying in engineering and business programs at Dalhousie.

3.3 Propane Inspection Update

W. Louch reported on the status of the propane inspections to date as directed by the propane inspector. Propane use on Sexton campus has not been an issue for a number of years and completing the campus should be straight forward. Dentistry is able to do with less gas outlets. The Dunn Building has been completed. The LSC has some other issues that need to be addressed and is in the in-between completion. The work planned is expected to be done with A&R funding and estimated that costs will be great.

3.4 Biosafety Manual

The Biosafety Manual is complete and being prepared to go to the printer. It will be available on the Safety website. W. Louch thanked C. Stuttard and C. MacLean for their help in the preparation in reviewing the document in its draft stages.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Research Lab Safety Policy

W. Louch reported he and Dr. C. Breckenridge will be meeting with Faculties who will be affected complying with the new revised research laboratory safety policy. The Research Manual has been updated to include the revised policy. R. Murray reported the meeting and discussions held with the Dean and Chairs in Faculty of Engineering was very positive and well received. Questions on funding and compliance were concerns raised. Further meetings are being scheduled with remaining Faculties will be scheduled over the next few weeks.

4.2 Earth Sciences

W. Louch has been looking at scope of Dal's Safety Program, focussing on aspects that need to be strengthened. The area of Biosafety is presently being dealt with. Autoclave Safety and particularly, Field Work/Trips that take large numbers of people away from the University, locally and internationally, to work in a variety of programs needs to be looked at more closely. The Department of Earth Sciences produced a "Best Practices Manual" for staff and students. W. Louch has seen the manual and met with the University's Legal Counsel, Financial Services to further look at any related policy and liability issues that might arise from field work.

W. Louch hinted at using the manual as a standard, similar to how the Laboratory Safety Policy Manual is broadly distributed.

M. Daye attended the meeting and matters of legal liability and assurances are being looked into with the University Legal Counsel. She will prepare a package for the Committee to review which is planned for the end of August. Ms. Daye added the manual would serve as a good foundation to begin with and more information should be available in the fall.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Correspondence

Letters of thanks sent to Dr. Traves, Mr. Cowan and Mr. Mason, for their support in participating in the presentation of the 2003 - 04 Annual Safety Award were copied to the Committee.

5.2 No Smoking Updated

Mary Somers provided a report containing feedback from students surveyed on the communication effort of the new smoking policy reaching students, which seemed to be 100% effective. Non-compliance was an issue raised repeatedly in the report.

M. Daye asked how the policy is dealing with non-compliance issues of smokers particularly where students writing exams in larger buildings gather outside entrances on to smoke on Dal property. W. Louch has been frequently visiting areas on campus and approaches smokers who are on University property, advising them of the policy. Those who are complying, he acknowledges and thanks them. An Ad hoc group will be contacted to meet, with inclusion of a Committee member, to look at the issue of non-compliance.

R. Murray asked W. Louch how he manages to approach people spread over 3 campuses. W. Louch added Security officers also approach smokers and some non-smokers occasionally asked smokers to abide with the University policy. The issue is more focussed around those who are verbally expressive and refuse to comply when approached.

F. Fyfe added many times he has approached the same smokers on the front steps of the Dunn building who will move away. The cigarette butt litter remains a problem.

Litter is a problem and ash urns placed in areas, are being used as waste receptacles, collecting beverage container litter. J. Dory suggested relocating some of the ash urns that are grounded in high traffic areas (drive ways and building entrances), to more needed areas like pedestrian walkways. This would take groups of smokers gathered around urns out of the way of vehicle traffic.

5.3 University of Calgary going Scent-Free

University of Calgary was in touch with the Safety Office for direction and assistance in preparing a scent-free program for their campus, similar to Dalhousie's. A formal launch was made and a closely designed program to that of Dal's, with some alterations in design, was made to the their scent logo and website. A complimentary recognition was included in their materials and on their website for Dalhousie's help. Copies of materials were circulated to the Committee.

- F. Fyfe asked if a letter of congratulations could be sent to C. McGrath as newly elected President to the DSU and encouraging his participation and input as valued member on the Committee.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was distributed for the Committee's review.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am by D. Clarke

The next meeting:
Wednesday, June 9, 2004
9:00-10:30 am
Room 2102
Marion McCain Building
(FASS Building)