

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting #228, November 9, 2005

MEMBERS:

Cathy MacLean (P)	University Appointee	Michael Murray (R)	DUAG
Anne Weeden (P)	University Appointee	Ezra Edlestein (R)	DSU
Darrell Boutilier (R)	University Appointee	Zita Hildebrandt (P)	NSGEU
Marlene Daye-Smith(P)	University Appointee	Forest Fyfe (R)	DFA
Mateo Yorke (P)	University Appointee	Joe Dorey (P)	IUOE
Patrick McGrath (A)	University Appointee	Michael Armstrong(R)	IUOE
Paul Amyotte (P)	University Appointee		
Ruth Murray (P)	University Appointee		

(P)resent - (R)egrets - (A)bsent

William J. Louch -Director

Jan Taylor McIntyre - Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the chair Anne Weeden.

Guest: Peter Howitt, Facilities Management - The Chair introduced P. Howitt and asked members of the Committee to introduce themselves. Ms. Weeden thanked Mr. Howitt for agreeing to brief the Committee on how Facilities Management maintains records of where asbestos is present in University buildings.

Mr. Howitt described the hazard assessment process which Facilities Management uses to identify what hazards - including asbestos - need to be considered as staff plan maintenance or renovations. He provided the Committee with a copy of the print-out from the asbestos inventory and indicated this information would be available to other groups including Housing and Conferences and Systems and Networks. He pointed out that electronic access would be preferable to relying on printed versions, as hard copies soon become outdated in view of the fact that testing and asbestos removal work goes on often. Mr. Howitt reviewed in some detail, a major asbestos removal project carried out by a contractor in the Dunn Building this past summer.

Members discussed with Mr. Howitt, a small project recently completed in the CRC in which plaster containing traces of asbestos was removed to permit the installation of a widened doorway. Although these projects are routine for Facilities Management, occupants of individual buildings see them only infrequently. Members felt that some occupant concerns could be allayed if building occupants received advance notification that such work was being planned. Advance notice would then offer concerned individuals the opportunity to make inquiries and to perhaps be satisfied that proper precautions were to be followed. Mr. Howitt agreed to take this suggestion back to supervisor in both the projects and maintenance units. Members felt that a variety of communication channels might need to be used. But departmental support staff could likely be very helpful in disseminating such notifications.

Ms. Weeden thanked Mr. Howitt for his very helpful presentation.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Draft minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed.

3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 Flu Immunization Updates - Members received a memo from the Chair reporting on the meeting which followed from the Committee October meeting. A. Weeden met with W. Louch, M. Murray and Suzanne Kolmer to look at broadening the annual flu program effort. The memo described the group's suggestions on what steps might be taken to move forward on the flu immunization of students - particularly residence students. The Committee accepted the recommendations, planning to return to the topic for updates later in the year.

W. Louch reported that two Nursing students who are working with the Safety Office as part of their course placement, are interested in the immunization issue. They have designed a poster and a brochure which was distributed for the Committee's information. The students plan to use the posters in an advertising campaign across the University in the coming weeks. They also plan to set up an information table in Howe and

Shirreff Halls to raise awareness of the need for immunization and the services currently available on campus.

Members suggested that this information should be included in the registration information sent to students during the summer.

C. MacLean reported on the 3 flu clinics held for the students in Medicine, Dentistry and Health Professions. She estimated that almost 900 students received a flu shot at these clinics. W. Louch reported the preliminary results for the staff flu clinics indicate that over 700 staff and faculty may have participated.

W. Louch indicated that he will re-open discussions with Dr Strang.

- 3.2 Review of the Environmental Health and Safety Program, Policy, Terms of Reference - W. Louch provided copies of the Safety Policy and revised terms of reference were distributed for the Committee's review and discussion at the December meeting. Members will consider the draft policy statement and asked W. Louch to begin to gather input for others whose views on this document will need to be taken into account. Members felt that the document, setting out the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair, could be further clarified.

W. Louch will rework that section of the terms of reference for December's meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 Amendments to the NS Smoke Free Places Act - W. Louch provided some background to the amendments to the Act and copies of a document which blends the existing act and the changes which the Government now proposing.

- 4.2 Air Quality Sampling - Concerns have been raised about air quality in a classroom in the Henry Hicks Building and a student study area on the Sexton Campus. W. Louch reported that testing was underway and data would be available for December.

A. Weeden noted an air quality concern was raised at the Faculty of Medicine Safety Committee meeting. Members of that Committee were concerned that ventilation systems are shut down at night in the Tupper Building to conserve energy and reduce costs. However, members of the Faculty Safety Committee feel that such ventilation reductions may be inappropriate in a building where experimental work is often underway late into the evenings and on weekends. Ms. Weeden agreed to keep the Committee updated on the discussions between the Faculty Committee and Facilities Management.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

W. Louch noted security issues seem to be much on the minds of people at Dalhousie. During the month, he reported having participated in meetings dealing with security matters in the LSC, Killam and the McCain buildings.

A. Weeden added that over the past several years, security has also been an issue in the Faculty of Medicine. The discussion prompted P. Amyotte to undertake to discuss similar security matters with senior officials on the Sexton Campus.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Next meeting is scheduled:
Wednesday, December 14, 2005
9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 305
Weldon Law Building