

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Meeting #242, March 14, 2007**

**MEMBERS:**

University Appointee		Heather Ann Walker (R)	DUAG
Roberta Emms (P) (for Cathy MacLean)		Ezra Edlestein (A)	DSU
Greg McNutt (R) University Appointee		Zita Hildebrandt (P)	NSGEU
Paul Bourgeois (P) University Appointee		Denise Sommerfeld (R)	DFA
Marlene Daye-Smith(R)University Appointee		Forest Fyfe (R)	DFA
Mateo Yorke (P) University Appointee		Joe Dorey (A)	IUOE
Patrick McGrath (A) University Appointee		Michael Armstrong(R)	IUOE
Paul Amyotte (R) University Appointee		Troy Winters (P)	CUPE
Ruth Murray (P) University Appointee			
		Mark Knechtel, Dentistry	Visitor

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

William J. Louch - Director, Jan Taylor McIntyre - Recording Secretary, Stephen Ellis - H&S Officer

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Z. Hildebrandt called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and asked members to introduce themselves to Mr. Mark Knechtel, Dentistry Safety Committee.

**2. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Minutes of the February meeting were adopted as circulated.

**3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**3.1 AED's**

**3.2 Safety Award Nominations**

Information on nominations submitted was circulated to members including one which nominated members in Facilities Management and Housing and Conference Services for their efforts towards improving residence air quality.

A second suggestion involves recognizing efforts made by local safety committees and in particular, the Radiation Safety Committee. The Radiation Safety Committee is celebrating its formation of 25 years of service.

Z. Hildebrandt noted that past awards have gone to work units. But that such a system tends to exclude from consideration efforts made by individuals.

The Committee asked that W. Louch bring to the next meeting, a draft of a text which recognizes the Radiation Safety Committee. Members suggested that Z. Hildebrandt and W. Louch consider revamping the award structure to accommodate individual awards.

**3.3 Fire Warden Day**

S. Ellis reported a date has not yet been set for the spring Fire Warden Day but he will send out an email to solicit input from wardens. The most common previous requests from wardens have been for fire extinguisher training and Q & A sessions.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Fire Inspections - Housing**

M. Yorke reported on the initial and follow up fire inspections which HRM Fire and Emergency Services conducted of several residence. Mr. Yorke reported that the Inspector seemed satisfied with the response to the short term items and that a start has been made on the items which will be addressed over the longer term.

##### **4.2 Air Quality in Dentistry**

R. Emms reported on an air quality situation in the Clinic Radiology unit in Dentistry. An exhaust fan failed, causing difficulties for some staff as a result of incomplete removal of X-ray film development fumes. Staff reported that the fumes were causing breathing difficulties and skin rashes. Facilities Management responded by making temporary repairs. A replacement was then installed which Facilities Management believes have returned the conditions in the staff darkroom to the pre-fan failure status. As part of the work, several design problems came to light and Facilities Management has been able to address some of them which have prevented some fume migration into surrounding areas.

Dentistry has arranged for a contractor to replace the exhaust canopies over the x-ray development machines in both the staff and student dark rooms in hopes of providing even better containment of fumes. The Safety Office has agreed to assist by conducting short tests and to advise on air quality testing.

Within a few years, Dentistry plans to move to a digital system which will entirely eliminate the need for chemical film development.

#### **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

W. Louch reviewed the report with the Committee. He noted that interior work, hazardous materials removal has largely been completed on old School of Business building on Coburg Road. The next stages of the renovations will begin shortly. The renovated building will accommodate The College of Continuing Education and units of the Computer Sciences.

He indicated that the Faculty of Medicine has indicated its plans to purchase an AED.

The Safety Office plans to begin offering targeted first aid training programs. The first set of programs will deal with first aid in a laboratory context and the first session is scheduled for early April.

The Radioactive Materials Data base, which P. Jones has been working on with staff of Administrative Computing, is now up and running in real time. Members expressed an interest in seeing a demo of the system.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

Members were told that D. Sommerfeld has been off on leave following the death a family member. The Committee asked the Chair to send a letter condolences.

### **6.1 Correspondence**

A copy of a letter from Z. Hildebrandt to K. Burt, new Vice-President of Finance and Administration was copied for the Committee's information.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am

Next Meeting:           Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
                              9:00 - 10:30 am  
                              Room 429  
                              Weldon Law Building