

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting #243, April 11, 2007

MEMBERS:

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

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Z. Hildebrandt called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and asked members to introduce themselves to Tom O'Shea who was attending for Mike Armstrong, the IUOE representative.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the March meeting were adopted as circulated.

3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Dentistry Air Quality - Update

W. Louch provided an update on the air quality problem reported last month in the Radiology darkroom in Dentistry. Facilities Management replaced a failed ventilation fan which serviced both the staff and student dark rooms. Facilities Management also improved the exhaust ducts serving the student dark room. The repairs and upgrades improved the situation in the staff dark room but difficulties remain in the student dark room. W. Louch attended a meeting with staff of Facilities Management, the dark room staff and representatives of the Faculty of Dentistry. The Clinic plans to re-design the enclosure around the student x-ray development machines in an effort to reduce the escape of fumes.

A report on the results of air flow testing was included in the Committee's package. Facilities Management is looking further at the possibility of increasing the exhaust airflow to the areas.

R. Emms indicated that staff are questioning why the exhaust air flow has since been reduced and why Facilities Management believe that it is important to establish a negative air balance. Although there have been no recent staff absences, Ms. Emms feels that a follow-up meeting with staff might be helpful. W. Louch agreed to meet at a mutually convenient time.

3.2 Annual Safety Award

The Committee reviewed a backgrounder and agreed to recognize the Radiation Safety Committee's work with an annual award. Members supported the idea of using the award to acknowledge the efforts of local safety committees across the University.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Accident - Dunn Theatre, Arts Centre

A NS Department of Labour report on an accident which occurred in the Dunn Theatre was circulated to members along with an order issued by the responding inspector. A staff member and a student suffered minor injuries when a mobile person-lift they were trying to move tipped over. In accord with Committee policy, a subcommittee was put together to meet with staff of the Theatre Department to prepare and conduct an investigation and respond to the order. The accident report and the associated recommendations have been accepted by the Theatre Department and are now being acted upon.

4.2 Killam Electrical Fire

A report on the March 21 electrical fire in the Killam Library on was circulated to members. The demands on a small transformer in the electrical vault in the Killam basement caused it to overload and overheat. No injuries were reported and the building was evacuated. There was damage to the transformer but not to the building. Facilities Management placed a portable generator on the boulevard to power the circuits served by the transformer. The Killam Library re-opened on schedule at 8:00 am the next morning.

The next evening someone tried to disconnect cables leading from the replacement portable generator. In addition to being very dangerous, the vandalism caused some minor damage to the generator and damaged a fan motor that the generator was powering. The fan motor was replaced quickly and a replacement transformer has been ordered.

W. Louch suggested that Dalhousie could perhaps make better use of the main web page to communicate information about such emergencies.

S. Ellis reported the Fire Warden Day is scheduled for May 30, 9 - 12:00 noon and the experience with the Killam fire may be one of the topics of discussion. He suggested that we could improve communications between Chief fire warden, Security and the Fire Service.

F. Fyfe indicated that on occasion Security Officers have ordered wardens out of the Dunn Building before the evacuation procedures had been completed.

4.3 2006 Annual Health and Safety Report

The 9th Annual Health and Safety Report to the Board of Governors Audit Committee, was circulated to Committee members. W. Louch briefly reviewed the report. He asked the Committee for suggestions if there were sections that may not be already covered or included in the report. Of particular interest to the Committee is the sections on Accidents and Fire Safety.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

W. Louch reviewed the report for the Committee. He also added that he has been invited to go

to meet with administrators at a college in Sault Ste. Marie to talk about the development of a smoke-free campus initiative.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Correspondence

An old document from the vaults of the Safety Office dated 1979, covering a draft set of terms of reference of the Committee at that time for a possible news release, was circulated for general information.

Z. Hildebrandt added she will not be present at the May meeting and it will also be time to look at a new Co-chair in the fall as M. Yorke will move up as Chair.

W. Louch informed the Committee that J. Dorey, representing IUOE, Custodial Services, had resigned from the Committee after many years of service as a member. Members asked Z. Hildebrandt to write, thanking Mr. Dorey for his many years of service.

E. Edlestein reported this would be his last meeting and hoped to pass along to his replacement the mandate of the Committee and the importance of its work. Members thanked Mr. Edlestein for his interest and support of Committee efforts. Members look forward to continuing to work closely with the Student Union.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2007
 9:00 - 10:30 am
 Room 304
 Weldon Law Building