



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting #221, December 8, 2004

MEMBERS:

Cathy MacLean (P)	University Appointee	Anne Weeden (A)	DUAG
Marlene Daye-Smith (R)	University Appointee	Michael Kieft (R)	DFA
Colin Stuttard (P)	University Appointee	Curtis McGrath (R)	DSU
Darrell Boutilier (P)	University Appointee	Tom Hunter (P)	IUOE
Mateo Yorke (P)	University Appointee	Dawn Korn (P)	NSGEU
Patrick McGrath (P)	University Appointee	Forest Fyfe (P)	DFA
Paul Amyotte (P)	University Appointee	Joe Dorey (A)	IUOE
Ruth Murray (P)	University Appointee	Marvin Silver (P)	CUPE

(P)resent - (R)egrets - (A)bsent William J. Louch -Director Jan Taylor McIntyre - Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair introduced Pauline Jones, Dalhousie's Radiation Safety Officer, to members of the Committee.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

R. Murray introduced a motion to accept the draft November minutes as circulated. The motion carried.

3. ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.1 Dunn Building Dust

W. Louch reported that, following a tour of areas in the Dunn Building, he wrote to Peter Howitt suggesting that action was needed to address the disintegrating ceiling tiles and damage to the east wall where moisture appears to be finding its way through the walls. He indicated that, although he does not believe that there is a serious mould issue (the walls are plaster and a carbon food source is thus not available) he has included areas of the Dunn building in his next mould sampling program in the fall.

Mr. Howitt has indicated that ceiling tile replacement will be undertaken in this fiscal year if funding is available. If funding is not available, the replacement will be done early in the new fiscal year. The moisture problem is much more substantial and the problem will require some study. In the meantime, a clean-up of the dust is to be carried-out.

3.2 2004 Light Walk Audit

W. Louch reported that he has written to Jeff Lamb asking for a report on follow-up to the 2004 Light Walk.

3.3 Flu Immunization Clinics

B. Mason's response to D. Boutilier's letter was copied for members. W. Louch reported that Dr. Joanne Langley has agreed to meet with the Committee at the March meeting to discuss flu immunization. Dr. Langley is an Associate Professor in the Departments' of Pediatrics and Community Health and Epidemiology. She is also a member on the Canadian Task Force on Preventative Health Care, who was recently interviewed in the Globe and Mail article circulated to members last month.

The Committee asked the Safety Office to invite others such as staff in Health Services and Personnel Services, who might also be able to contribute to the discussions. Members suggested organizing the February agenda to make it possible to devote most of the March meeting to the topic of immunization.

C. MacLean spoke favourably of the Department of Health and their assistance of providing students in the Health Professions programs with flu inoculations. Around 360 students were immunized over a period of a few days.

Members wondered if the University might be able to acquire vaccine privately. W. Louch agreed to make inquiries but felt current demands across the continent are such that it is unlikely that we could obtain vaccine soon enough to be effective for this year's flu season.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Smoking

W. Louch reported on a visit to Sir Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario last month to assist with their development of a Smoke-Free Program. The Laurier President has indicated that he personally favours declaring the campus smoke-free and W. Louch met with the Committee which the President created to review the matter. The Laurier Student Union was particularly interested in the DSU's support for the Dalhousie program, particularly since both student unions operate on campus.

W. Louch reported that the Dalhousie senior management plans to send e-mails to all employees and students to remind them of the Smoking Policy.

W. Louch has also met with External Relations, DUAG and NSGEU, to ask for help on developing a package which could be used by departmental staff when they invite visitors to campus. The package would alert visitors to the University's Scent and Smoking policies. W. Louch also told the Committee that C. McGrath will attend an up-coming Youth Tobacco Prevention Strategies Conference in Ottawa. Mr. McGrath will represent both the DSU and the Capital District Health Authority.

Finally, W. Louch reported that Smoke-Free Nova Scotia has hired a person, who is working with Health Canada and Maritime universities, to lay the ground work for a comprehensive tobacco reduction effort targeted at university-aged smokers. Dalhousie has been very involved with and supportive of the initiative.

4.2 Slips, Trips and Falls

W. Louch reminded the Committee that slip, trip and fall accidents represent a significant fraction of the accidents which occur on campus. This past autumn, a temporary employee in the Facilities Management's Carpentry Shop, fell as his heel caught on a step and fell down a CSB staircase. Although initially there was considerable concern about the extent of his injuries, the employee has fully recovered. A follow-up investigation failed to show any problems with the stairs which might have contributed to the fall. W. Louch provided examples of other trip/slip/fall accidents.

M. Silver raised a potential for a slip/trip injury in the halls around the Killam Library Atrium where the student computer power cords present a tripping hazard. W. Louch will look at the area.

4.3 Campus Fire Safety

A package of seasonal safety information was provided for members' review. The material has been added to the Safety Office website. W. Louch suggested that, in time, this section of the website might grow to deal with some off-campus safety matters.

The package includes a reminder of prohibition of open flames and candles in University buildings. A Notice Digest message was recently sent out to remind people about these matters. It also included the URL directing people to the Safety Office website.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

W. Louch reviewed with members, activities in the report that took place over the last month.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Sampling

Members received correspondence regarding a drinking water source testing carried-out in the Learning Resource Centre in Fenwick Place. The test results show measured levels were well within the limits set by the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

The next meeting:
Wednesday, February 9, 2005
9:00-10:30 am
Room 406
Weldon Law Building