

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting #230, February 8, 2006

MEMBERS:

Cathy MacLean (P)	University Appointee	Michael Murray (P)	DUAG
Anne Weeden (P)	University Appointee	Carolyn Green (R)	DUAG
Darrell Boutilier (A)	University Appointee	Ezra Edlestein (P)	DSU
Marlene Daye-Smith(P)	University Appointee	Zita Hildebrandt (P)	NSGEU
Mateo Yorke (P)	University Appointee	Forest Fyfe (R)	DFA
Patrick McGrath (P)	University Appointee	Joe Dorey (P)	IUOE
Paul Amyotte (P)	University Appointee	Michael Armstrong(P)	IUOE
Ruth Murray (P)	University Appointee	Stephen Ellis, H&SO	Guest
Peter Brown (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 to order by the Chair.

As new members and visitors were in attendance, the Chair asked Committee members to introduce themselves. Stephen Ellis, a new Health and Safety Officer, joined the Safety Office in January and provided the Committee with a brief background about himself. Peter Brown was also present representing Security Services. M. Murray indicated he will be replaced at the next meeting by Carolyn Green.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Draft minutes of the February meeting were approved as distributed. Moved by M. Murray, seconded by Z. Hildebrandt. Carried.

3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Review of the Environmental Health and Safety Program, Policy, Terms of Reference

W. Louch provided another revision of the Committee policy and terms of reference. P. Amyotte moved to accept the revision. M. Yorke seconded the changes.

As C. Green will be replacing M. Murray on the Committee, a volunteer from the employee group is needed to replace M. Murray who was the Vice-chair.

Draft EH&S Policy - As requested by the Committee, W. Louch brought forward a version to the Dalhousie Environmental Health and Safety Policy. In developing the draft, he reported that he had consulted with others within the University including Karen Crombie, Legal Counsel.

The Committee felt that the document was much improved. But several members felt that the document should make reference to both the President and the Board of Governors. W. Louch agreed to discuss with others how the suggestion might be incorporated into the document.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Mumps Update - Notices had been circulated to the University about the outbreak of mumps among students. There have been 19 cases reported up to the Christmas break. At the start of the 2nd term, one more case was reported, likely resulting from contact with a contagious student just before the Christmas break. Information was included in the Committee's materials.

The situation has settled down and no further cases have surfaced.

The latest case involved a student living in residence. At the suggestion of the infection control people at Capital Health, the student was isolated from other students until the contagious stage passed.

- 4.2 Flu Immunization - W. Louch reported that he had passed along to Dr. Robert Strang, information on the health status of residence students. Information gathered by Housing and Conferences in September indicated that about 5% of the students in residence, have serious health/medical conditions. Dr Strand felt that this data would help public health officials evaluate the need for influenza immunization in residence. The next step will be to approach the Vice-President of Student Services. M. Yorke added that the degree to which students travel, presents another dimension to the infection control issue.

E. Edlestein reminded the Committee of the need to ensure that student participation in an influenza program, would be voluntary.

W. Louch told the Committee that Health Services has asked that the Safety Office to convene a meeting of Dentistry, Medicine and Health Professions staff, to look at how we might streamline the immunization programs which students must participate in before starting hospital-based programs.

- 4.3 Sampling - Data on sampling carried out before the Christmas break were included for the Committee's review.

A. Weeden asked if there was a reason for this sampling. W. Louch responded that people are generally becoming more aware of indoor environment issues. People who are feeling unwell often contact the Safety Office, asking that we investigate.

Depending upon the issues that arise, sometimes sampling is carried out. P. Amyotte asked how this affects the Safety Office's resources and if it has become more demanding on the staff. W. Louch responded that the University had recently increased the staff complement which will permit the Office to respond to many added service demands. Budgets have generally kept pace with the needs although he indicated that the Office is running a deficit in the current year.

M. Yorke commented on the usefulness of mould training W. Louch provided to Housing and Conference Services staff. He suggested that a short pamphlet might help people better understand the results of mould sampling.

E. Edlestein asked, is there any reason for the difference in results between when the Studley House was occupied and when it is empty. W. Louch replied that he had sampled in September as a follow-up to a sewer line break. The most recent results were much lower – likely as a result of the good housecleaning that had been carried out.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The University has asked a group to consider the need for a policy covering health, safety and insurance matters associated with international travel by employees. W. Louch has been asked to chair the meeting sessions of the group.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Annual Safety Award - W. Louch reminded members that it is time to consider nominations for the annual award. A notice for nominations will be sent through Notice Digest.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.

Next meeting is scheduled:
Wednesday, April 12, 2006
9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 304
Weldon Law Building