

UW Tacoma Health & Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 11, 2010

In attendance: Jessica Asplund, Joe Chynoweth, Nancy Cook, Stephen Costanti, Gabriela Crosby, Kim Davenport, Linda Dawson, Trish Fiacchi, Michelle Hartman, Darcy Janzen, Dave Leonard, Carolyn Maxson, Naarah McDonald, Michael McMillan, Deidra Miller, Tracey Norris, Michael Pedee, Suzanne Skaar, Milt Tremblay, Susan Wagshul-Golden, Angela Zurcher.

J. Chynoweth called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved with no changes.

Report from UW-wide meeting

S. Costanti shared the highlights of the March UW-wide meeting. There was a discussion about creating monthly themes for the UW-wide meeting, and S. Costanti suggested that the UWT committee consider something similar. J. Chynoweth agreed that this could be a good idea, and asked for other members to comment. D. Leonard shared that he had already been brainstorming, and could share a proposed list of topics at the next meeting.

Incident Reports

February 2010: 2010-02-156

The one incident reported in February involved a fall down a stairway in the Pinkerton building. J. Chynoweth discussed the regularity of falls, and encouraged committee members to share the message within their departments of being careful when going up and down stairs. M. Tremblay suggested that the committee share this message via uwline. S. Costanti replied that he felt it would be more effective if committee members report back to their units directly, as many people delete or ignore uwline messages.

J. Chynoweth shared that after the incident, Facilities staff evaluated the lighting in the stairwell and determined that it was sufficient. K. Davenport asked whether a lighter paint color could be considered, as even with adequate lighting, the stairwell still seems very dark and near-misses are reported frequently by staff and faculty in the building. S. Costanti suggested that this should be a recommendation to Facilities.

D. Leonard shared that he and S. Wagshul-Golden had also evaluated the stairwell, and identified a few causes for concern: both agreed that the stairwell is too dark, and also suggested that the fact that the top step is carpeted, while others are not, could be a slipping hazard as well.

J. Chynoweth proposed that the committee recommend to Facilities to re-evaluate paint color, lighting, and the carpeting on the top step. This recommendation was unanimously approved.

Student Incidents reported to Security

M. Pedee shared information about one incident involving a student injured in a classroom. The student was hit in the face with a projector screen after apparently using a great deal of force to pull it down. The incident was reported to Facilities, which then alerted Campus Safety. S. Wagshul-Golden expressed concern that the faculty member reported the incident only to Facilities; even though Facilities staff did report it promptly to Campus Safety, it is important that incidents involving injury be reported directly to Campus Safety.

D. Leonard shared that he is in the process of completing an investigation of the incident, and could report back to the committee once the investigation is complete.

Dave Leonard

D. Leonard congratulated the committee on its fine work, stating that it was the most effective safety committee he had been a part of in more than 20 years of experience. He specifically recognized the work of J. Chynoweth as chair, S. Costanti and M. McMillan for service to the UW-wide committee, and K.Davenport and N.McDonald for service as secretary.

As he mentioned earlier in the meeting, D. Leonard recommends that each month's meeting have a topical educational component. He will present more details on this proposal at the next meeting.

D. Leonard also shared updates from EH&S, specifically that there would be changes coming following the death of a leader and the prospect of upcoming layoffs.

Earthquake Drill

J. Sundheim asked that the topic of an Earthquake Drill in April be raised at the meeting, although she could not attend. S. Wagshul-Golden offered that Campus Safety would plan events, to include a drill, to take place in April, which is Earthquake Awareness Month. J.Chynoweth offered to assist with these efforts.

M.McMillan asked whether there could also be an educational aspect to these events, such as the showing of a video from the EH&S library. S. Wagshul-Golden confirmed that she would include this in the events being planned, and D. Leonard offered the resources of EH&S.

Round Table

D. Miller mentioned that the *Ledger* article about an incident in Court 17 was not entirely accurate.

M. Tremblay shared that his first priority is the safety of students, staff, and faculty. As funding is available, safety improvements will continue to be made around campus.

N. McDonald recommended that everyone stay current on CPR training.

N. Cook shared that counselors are working with Education because of student/alumni deaths, faculty illnesses. She encouraged everyone to be aware that the faculty, staff, and students in that program are going through a very difficult time.

T. Norris asked when trainings would be available to new wardens. S. Wagshul-Golden responded that they would be scheduled on a more regular basis, and also that individuals could request training outside of that schedule.

D. Leonard and S. Wagshul-Golden encouraged committee members to remind their units about Carelink and 692-SAFE as valuable resources.

M. Pedee stressed that the issue of furniture being moved by students is an ongoing concern. He also shared that artificial trees in Philip Hall were being placed in front of fire doors during some events. M. Tremblay offered to follow up.

S. Skaar shared a suggestion from staff in Nursing, that commuting options be stressed to the campus community as a safety issue. If more faculty, staff, and students use public transportation options, fewer members of the campus community will have to park and walk through unsafe areas to campus. J. Chynoweth agreed that this was a good suggestion, and offered to invite Jennifer Burley to a future meeting to discuss this.

J. Chynoweth shared that within the past week, a fire alarm had been pulled in one of the retail spaces on Pacific, Hello Cupcake. The incident functioned as an effective drill, and the evacuation was handled very well.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

- submitted by Kim Davenport