

W UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON | TACOMA

UW Tacoma Health & Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
April 8, 2010

In attendance: Angela Zurcher, Darcy Janzen, Susan Wagshul-Golden, Oliver Dunagan, Joe Chynoweth, Trish Fiacchi, Dave Leonard, Kim Davenport, Jennifer Sundheim, Linda Dawson, Stephen Costanti, Linda Spence-Noyer, Lia Wetzstein, Naarah McDonald, Tomieka Garrett

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

Agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved with no changes.

Report from UW-wide meeting

S. Costanti reported that UW Risk Management's Claims Services gave a presentation on the worker compensation program statistics at the UW. He reported that compared to general industry in other states Washington currently ranks slightly above the national average in the occupational injury and illness incidence rate (per 100 FTEs). The 2009 claim rate was 2.1 (per 100 FTEs) for the UW, compared to the State as a whole of 9.1 (per 100 FTEs). Within the University, the medical center sector generates the most claims and the education sector the least.

He also reported that the UW is working on a settlement regarding a Department of Labor and Industries investigation on the use of small utilities vehicles. The actual investigation involved a golf cart transporting someone which resulted in a broken hip. Part of the settlement agreement will be establishing a program to address other vehicles, such as John Deere "Gators".

Incident Reports Reported to Security

March 2010

Tabled

Meeting Topics

D. Leonard suggested that there be a monthly schedule of topics and presented a handout that listed possible topics and provided different possible formats and schedules. He reported he will solicit input from committee members and report on the topic at a future meeting. . D

Incident Reports

March 2010

S. Costanti and J. Chynoweth brought up the incident involving the burglary of an office in the SCI building and the assault of the Campus Safety officers that responded to the burglary. S. Wagshul-Golden shared the facts of the incident and the reasoning behind the decision to involve Tacoma Police. The officers were assaulted in the process of attempting to detain the individual to await the arrival of TPD. The injuries were significant enough to require medical attention.

J. Chynoweth asked if the officers were equipped with the correct tools and training to address this scenario and if not, could the injuries have been avoided if they had been. S. Wagshul-Golden stated that after action reviews are underway, which is standard practice, and all after incident resources, such as Care Link, defensive tactics trainer review, and physician care, are being utilized. Any modification of or addition to officer equipment and training is subject to the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor's approval.

L. Wetzstein shared that due to this incident, there have been some policy changes about the hours that students/staff/faculty are in the buildings; when anyone will be alone, especially after hours, they are to contact Safety to make them aware. Further, all doors are to be locked behind whomever is exiting a room at all hours.

J. Chynoweth asked if the injuries to the officers were preventable at all. S. Wagshul-Golden answered that every situation is unique and there is always the chance this could happen. The best course of action is to review previous situations and train as much as possible. J. Chynoweth asked if this had been the first time officers had been injured and S. Wagshul-Golden shared that there had been other incidents previously, but this was the most serious.

L. Spence-Noyer and S. Costanti asked if there are any guidelines, policies, or procedures that help guide the officers to make decisions to detain someone with or without restraints instead of letting the individual go, to call each other for back up, and when it's appropriate to involve Tacoma Police. S. Wagshul-Golden reminded that, in general, every situation is unique and decisions on how to proceed are subject to officer judgment and the situation being presented. S. Wagshul-Golden said that in this case, our officers decided TPD was needed when the individual became agitated, hostile and made threatening gestures.

D. Leonard moved for the committee to formally recognize the officers for what they did and to show appreciation for their positions. Motion was seconded and approved by committee unanimously.

Earthquake Drill

J. Chynoweth asked if UWT was going to participate in the statewide earthquake drill on 4/21/10. S. Wagshul-Golden suggested everyone should be thinking about personal and campus drill scenarios.

Suggestions were solicited for how to implement drills.

J. Chynoweth asked L. Dawson if faculty were open to having drills during class time. She believed most faculty would participate, but would need enough time to implement a plan. It was also asked if department director approval would be needed. L. Wetzstein was asked if there were special considerations that needed to be taken in account for the chemicals in the labs and the vent/safety hoods.

It was asked what Facilities' roll would be for evacuating the buildings and determining the soundness of the structures to allow for evacuating trapped people. It was also stated that ADA/mobility issues would need to be taken into consideration. D. Leonard suggested continuing the conversation through email, due to time constraints at the meeting.

L. Wetzstein expressed concern about the responsibilities of individual departments to evacuate their buildings on their own, and that there doesn't seem to be any guidance on how and when departments were responsible for their own people.

J. Sundheim suggested that the representatives take the issue of department responsibility to their directors for discussion.

Round Table

L. Spence-Noyer expressed need to have faculty on board with emergency preparation.

N. Cook suggested continually updating and sharing emergency preparation information with departments and colleagues.

A. Zurcher stated that communicating within divisions can be helpful to direct each other to links, and informational web sites for further education.

K. Davenport asked if it would be possible to look into giving information sessions about emergency preparation to the Chancellor's Leadership Council and to Admin Junque. K. Davenport also asked if it had been decided to submit a work order for the PNK stairs. O. Dunagan replied that painting to the stairs will be done and the lighting issue will be addressed as time allows.

The step and lighting issue was brought up in regards to the DOU building steps that head down from Jefferson to Commerce. The lighting makes it hard to judge depth perception which makes it a trip hazard. J. Chynoweth asked O. Dunagan to check that area.

J. Sundheim suggested the textured, rough tape stripping for the edges of the stairs, as that has worked well for the library stairs. J. Sundheim also added that supervisors should follow up with the people in their areas for completing the asbestos training. It is easy to do and requires very little time. Lastly, for the earthquake drill, library is discussing doing a PA announcement in their building.

N. Geier will take earthquake drill suggestions to Chancellor's office.

D. Jantzen suggested a final plan for the Earthquake drill by Friday, April 16th.

D. Leonard shared that the Emergency Operations Center drill is being held at the Seattle campus next week.

T. Fiacchi discussed following up with directors to ensure asbestos training is completed.

L. Wetzstein shared that various types of auto responses are in place for some departments to send an email notice to supervisors when a person has completed asbestos training.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm

-submitted by Dayna Barr