



M E M O R A N D U M

Date: May 6, 2009

To: CAMPUS HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Anita Barker, Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports
Darrell Bartlett, CSUEU
Mike Bates, University Housing & Food Service
Kevin Brennan, CSUEU
Carol Ebel, CSUEU
Lauri Evans, Disability Support Services
Brian Exparza, SETC
John James, APC
Brian Miller, Agricultural Teaching & Research Center
Neil Nunn, Facilities Management and Services
Kirby Pierson, Facilities Management and Services
Robert Stevens, Workers Compensation
Jody Strong, Associated Students
Michael Swithenbank, University Police Department
Matt Thomas, UPSAC
Linda Vidovich, Disability Programs and Worker's Compensation
Lori Beth Way, CFA
Women's Center – Associated Students

Cc: Lorraine B. Hoffman, Vice-President for Business and Finance

From: Kenneth L. Sator, Director of Environmental Health and Safety

Subject: CAMPUS HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2009

Present: Anita Barker, Darrell Bartlett, Mike Bates, Carol Ebel, Lauri Evans, Brian Exparza, John James, Brian Miller, Robert Stevens, Jody Strong, Michael Swithenbank, Linda Vidovich, and Lori Beth Way.

Absent: Kevin Brennan, Neil Nunn, Kirby Pierson, Matt Thomas, and Women's Center Representative.

The Campus Health and Safety Committee meeting commenced at 2:00 p.m. in Room 209 at Kendall Hall.

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Sator, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing the Committee members.

Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2009

The minutes of February 11, 2009, were approved as submitted.

Introduction of new Vice-Chair

It was the consensus of the Committee to elect Lauri Evans as Vice-Chair of the Campus Health and Safety Committee.

Discussion on Effect on Repetitive Stress Injuries Due to Working 10-Hour Days – Darrell Bartlett

Mr. Bartlett stated with the implementation of the new 4/10 summer hours there have been concerns expressed by Union members regarding the possibility of repetitive stress injuries, heat illness, ergonomics, fatigue, etc., during the summer work schedule. Mr. Bartlett asked if there is educational information available to employees working long hours.

Ken Sator responded Richard Perrelli, Industrial Hygienist, performs ergonomic evaluations of work stations at no cost to the department. On the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) website, under “Links”, is information on ladder safety, safe lifting techniques, personal protective clothing, and ergonomic safety tips; under “Training” list the various categories of safety videos and brochures available to departments and employees; and under “Health and Safety”, “Illness Prevention Plan”, is the supplemental “Heat Illness Prevention Plan.”

It was noted the 4/10 summer hours will begin June 1st through August 14th. The Campus will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a half hour lunch, and closed on Fridays. The purpose of the new summer schedule is to provide employees the benefit of a 3-day weekend and reduce our carbon footprint. Administration is to make every effort to accommodate staff employees for whom this schedule constitutes a hardship such as childcare, medical issues, physical limitations, etc.

A question was asked if there will be an announcement sent as a reminder to employees on safety techniques and precautions; when working in hot conditions drink plenty of water during the day; take breaks from the heat by sitting in the shade; micro breaks from repetitive movement; what to do if someone becomes fatigued; and do not hesitate to contact University Police at 911 or your supervisor, if a person becomes ill (Be Aware – Be Smart).

EH&S Charts

Mr. Sator presented to the Committee statistic charts on hazardous materials, accidents (worker’s comp); training; ergonomic evaluations; food vending permits; and respirator fit testing for fiscal year 2008/09, third quarter (January thru March 2009).

The type of accident/injuries reported are injuries to knees, wrists, hip, neck, and back; injured hands; injured lower backs; minor puncture wounds or lacerations; injured ankles or knees; and injury to eyes.

Michael Swithenbank suggested the accidents (worker’s compensation) chart reflect the difference in type and number of accidents during the 10-hour work schedule and the regular 8-hour work schedule.

Last Meeting of 2008/09 and Annual Report to President Zingg by July 1st

Mr. Sator stated this is the last meeting for the 2008/09 fiscal year. The Campus Health and Safety Committee Annual Report for 2008/09 will be submitted to President Zingg by July 1st. The report is submitted in accordance with Executive Memorandum 07-19 that directs that the campus President and Cabinet be provided an annual Campus Health and Safety Committee report.

Mr. Sator noted that the 2007/08 Campus Health and Safety Committee Annual Report is available on the EH&S website under "Health and Safety Committee."

Update on Canary Island Pine Cones located near the Main Campus Vehicle Bridge

At the December 8, 2008 meeting, Mr. Brennan expressed a concern on the Canary Island Pine cones dropping and falling on the pedestrian walkway located near the Campus vehicle bridge and the possibility of someone getting seriously injured by a falling cone.

Durbin Sayers, Facilities Management and Services, advised he received two (2) quotes from Richard's Tree Services, the contracted arborist. The first quote for \$800.00 is for the removal of the existing cones which would be a temporary solution. When the cones are green they usually do not fall. The cones fall after maturing, their seeds have dropped, making the cones lighter. He noted the tree is approximately 20 to 25 years old.

The second quote for \$1,900.00 is for the removal of the entire tree. Removing the entire tree presents challenges by removing a perfectly healthy pine tree, might meet opposition.

If the safety committee recommends it's removal, I would then ask for funding as the department's current budget does not include the removal of this tree.

Anita Barker asked what is the possibility of installing a sign "Be Aware of Falling Pine Cones."

Linda Vidovich responded by installing a sign the University acknowledges there is a risk of being injured by a falling cone.

Mr. Sayers noted that the temporary barricade solution has not worked, as the barricades are often found in the creek.

Discussion followed regarding other trees on Campus, such as the Liquidambar, create a safety hazard on pedestrian walkways. The Liquidambar produces a "sticky ball" composed of numerous spikes that cause pedestrian injury such as sprained ankles and slipping and falling; the pine cones are the habits of the trees; and it is not the cost or risk of removing the tree, but the value of the tree and the safety of the people.

Anita Barker stated the issue has been addressed by the Committee and suggested that perhaps the concerns could be addressed by the Cabinet to determine if further action is required. Ms. Barker noted that should an incident occur, the Committee will reevaluate the issue.

Other

Jody Strong advised that Caroline Coykendall was the recipient of the 2008 Staff Safety Award. The award was presented to Caroline on May 1, 2009, at the University Housing and Food Services Maintenance Shop near Esken Hall. Ms. Coykendall received a plaque, certificate, and a monetary award.

Ken Sator advised that a nomination was submitted on behalf of Ms. Coykendall for the State Governor's Employee Safety Award that will be announced in October 2009.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Campus Health and Safety Committee is September 24, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Kendall Hall, Room 209.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.