Minutes

Meeting of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee (HSEC)
Monday, April 2, 2012
University Center (UC), Room 251
3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Alewine, Felicia Scott, Travis Bryant, Chris Locklear, Laura Staal, Rebecca Gonzalez, Larry Freeman, Mordechai Inbari, Jennifer Johnson, Arthur Herns, and Joanne McMillan

Guests Present: Robert Arndt

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Michael Alewine. The agenda was approved, as were the minutes from the previous meeting.

Chair’s Report:

Travis should become a permanent member of the committee as his participation was approved by the Faculty Senate. Final approval will be made at the General Faculty Meeting.

Robert Arndt was introduced to the group. He will be taking Michael’s place starting next year (as Library representative). There will be a 5 to 10 minute meeting on August 27, 2012, so that the group can elect a chair for the HSEC.

The Chancellor has agreed to act on any smoking resolution that is brought before him. Michael presented to the Student Government Association, and they in turn are drafting something that will go through the proper channels before arriving at the Chancellor’s offices.

Reports from Administrators

a. Associate Vice Chancellor for Safety and Emergency Operations: Travis has continued researching smoking initiatives on different campuses. He provided us with information from the University of Montana. He showed the group a sign that could be placed around buildings to reinforce the smoking ban near buildings. He suggested a smoking ban/awareness week, particularly since media outlets are now heavily promoting anti-smoking campaigns. The awareness campaign would remind smokers about where on campus smoking is allowed. While some universities (like Chapel Hill) impose a $200 fine, he feels that pushing education first is more important. Michael Alewine mentioned that he will contact SGA again to propose a weeklong smoking ban initiative.

Travis also mentioned that AED installation has been halted until policy approval takes place. He mentioned that the machines were easy to use, and that users are protected against lawsuits under the Good Samaritan Law.

Travis also mentioned that Steve Martin is working on some policy revisions regarding space heaters, other appliances, and the use of food services.

Travis mentioned there will be an emergency operations exercise on May 7th.

b. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facility Management – None
c. Safety Officer, Environmental Health and Safety – None

d. Director, Facilities Operations - None

Old Business:

a. Michael received 3 pieces of feedback (2 from Department Chairs, 1 from a faculty member). The chairs expressed concerns about having direct supervision over what appliances may be deemed safe/unsafe. It was suggested that Facilities will ultimately determine what is appropriate or not, but Steve expressed a concern that the whole process of appliance inspection could become very cumbersome. A web page listing approved equipment was suggested; Steve is working on a draft of suitable appliances.

New Business:

a. There is repeated reckless driving in the library lots (near the Chancellor’s house). Drivers don’t stop and swerve around speed bumps at excessive speeds. Michael asked about the possibility of making the speed bumps closer to the curb. Larry offered to look into it.

b. Another complaint has to do with the lot in front of the science building. There are many people stopping in order to make a left turn. Someone reported a faculty member held up traffic while rearranging something in their back seat. Additional signs were suggested, as well as extra police patrol in order to minimize backups/traffic.

c. There is concern about the policy for pregnant females in labs. The University needs to devise a way to not discriminate against pregnant students and to provide alternative learning activities for those that cannot participate. Aside from posting general signage warning of the dangers, safety guideline signoffs were mentioned. The University could also adopt reproductive policies offered on other campuses.

d. There was concern about whether faculty need to become involved when student arrests are made on campus. It was made clear that participating is at the discretion of the instructor.

e. Next meeting is set for August 27, 2012.

Adjourned: 4:08 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Gonzalez