

## **SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 17, 2014**

**Barnhart Room in Carson Hall**

**Attendees:** Adam Jones, Debra George, Diana Sobczynski, Doug Brooke, Gwynn Daniels, Hannah Vasey-Vehrs, Lynn Alvarez, Manuel Balesteri and Michelle Wygle.

The March 20, 2014 minutes were approved.

### **Accident and Injury Report**

The committee reviewed the accident and injury report for March.

Adam reported on the injury from repetitive use of a pipetteman. He watched this process and the individuals do thumb depressions hundreds of times during the day. Adam recommends using three kinds of pipettes to rotate the area of use. Hannah added that this is a good reminder to have ergonomic assessments completed on people with repetitive motion in their jobs.

Hannah said it's time for her to send out her bee sting reminder. Dana follows up on these incidents.

Michelle asked about the coffee urn lifting incident and if there is a better way of moving it. Adam said two people should have worked together to move the urn.

Doug asked if the EMU shelf that broke and injured an individual's foot was overloaded or improperly hung. It is unclear. According to the report the shelf was broken and old.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to report.

### **New Business**

Gwynn brought a copy of the United Academics collective bargaining contract that was recently reviewed by EHS. Section 13 (Health and Safety), Article 4 states:

“The University and the Union agree to develop, through the Safety Advisory Committee, a written comprehensive workplace violence prevention policy that is consistent with OSHA guidelines.

At a minimum, the policy will address avoiding workplace violence, verbal and nonverbal threats, and similar actions, and will provide a procedure for the prompt reporting of incidents.

The policy will be developed by the Safety Advisory Committee and submitted to the Provost or designee. The Provost or designee will have final authority to establish the policy. If the Provost or designee materially alters the recommended policy he or she will provide a written explanation for the change(s) to the Safety Advisory Committee. The Provost or designee may initiate changes to the established workplace violence prevention policy by informing the Safety Advisory Committee of the change being considered, thereby initiating the process described in this paragraph.

The workplace violence prevention policy will be posted on the Human Resources website.”

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Gwynn reported that there are OSHA guidelines for workplace violence specific to healthcare facilities, but not for other worksites as yet. Neither the Safety Advisory Committee nor its individual members have the expertise to develop this kind of policy.

Gwynn contacted an individual at OHSU about this. At OHSU, workplace violence policies are owned by the Department of Public Safety. OHSU is willing to help Gwynn and UOPD create this policy. Gwynn added that SAC's obligation is to make sure this is completed. Debra suggested we keep this on the agenda as old business. The group agreed that Gwynn is on the right track by involving UOPD.

Gwynn proposed that we ask UOPD to complete these requirements and that SAC address this regularly to ensure that it is completed. Hannah seconded. The vote was unanimous. Gwynn will communicate this request to Carolyn McDermed by email and cc the SAC members. She will contact union leadership and explain that we are not the correct group to take this on. Gwynn will also bring this up at the PAC12 EHS conference in June.

Hannah mentioned that there should be United Academics representatives on SAC. Gwynn will also ask about this when she contacts UA leadership.

Debra reported that the Health Center and Counseling & Testing has been receiving training on workplace violence annually. In conjunction with UOPD & Emergency Management, Counseling and Testing has received training in invasive violence. They will be having a trial lockdown drill with UOPD soon.

Debra told the group that Lane County Public Health is looking at emergency response to incidents of tuberculosis in Lane County. A tabletop exercise will be on April 25th 2:00-5:00 p.m. Gwynn will check her schedule to see if she can attend.

Lynn said the Barnhart room may be busy in June, July and August. Michelle will find an alternate room.

The next Safety Advisory Committee meeting is **May 15th, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Barnhart Room in Carson.**

Submitted by Michelle Cottrell