

Group 2 Health & Safety Meeting Minutes
1/19/2023 – Teams Meeting

Attendees: Brett Magnuson, Chris Pennington, Collin O’Meara, Nigel Horton, Mariann Thompson, Tracey Mosier, Austin Davis, Nick Fraser, Aaron Brantley, Joe Grojean, Eshak Zakhary, Kyle Kulenkamp, Clayton Brainerd, Michael Crain, Derek Martin, Daniel Jung

Absentees: Norman Kwasinski, Sonia Honeydew, Alison Robinson, Ann Wold, Ken Clark, Eric Broekhuizen, Ron Fouty, Erik Krownbell, Joanna Pang, Anne Donegan, Peter Bakkedahl, John Salvesen, Daniel Eden

Key: Voting attendee, counts towards quorum-Eight (8) need to be present either in person or on phone/Zoom.

Recorder of Minutes: Collin O’Meara, Engineering Services

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Call to Order

The meeting was held via Teams and called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Nigel Horton, Co-Chair Group #2 Health & Safety.

Attendance/Quorum

- Quorum was met.

Safety Moment

- Kyle: Be sure to lock up your vehicles and bring your tools in. Multiple buildings were broken into over the weekend and vehicles continue to be targeted.

Review of Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Brett has made changes to the December minutes to incorporate Chris’s comments. No additional changes are needed. Collin motions to approve the minutes. Nigel seconds. Approved.

UW-Wide Report

- Norm and Nigel attended the meeting.
- Nigel: We had the quarterly Covid and Mpox update. There was a report that came out. We were talking about the transition into the new year and talking about remote meetings, which does make meetings easier to attend but doesn’t provide the cohesion that in-person meetings provide.

Review Action Items

- Nigel: There is one item but we’ll discuss that under New Business (open positions/elections).
 - Nick: I’ll talk to my supervisor and figure out an elected representative to replace Ann, and Derek will be looped in.

Group Reports

- Asset Management:
 - PDG (Nigel): We’re going through some safety moments on our end, as we’ve seen a recent uptick in incidents at our job sites.
 - Engr Services (Collin): Nothing to report.
 - Real Estate: No report.

- BI/IT (Nick): Nothing to report other than our little re-org.
- BSD (Aaron): Regarding air quality tests that are performed in stairwells where transients have been – these tests are typically happening several hours after the transients are first encountered, with those encounters usually occurring at 5am or 6am. So does it make sense to perform these when it is several hours after people have been using/smoking drugs in the stairwells?
 - Tracey: There is little risk to other people from smoke resulting from transients' drug use. Of course physical safety issues are another matter, but the risk of toxic exposure is minimal based on current information. <https://publichealthinsider.com/2022/04/05/its-safe-to-give-help-questions-and-answers-about-secondhand-fentanyl-exposure/>
Who is doing this monitoring?
 - Austin [posted in Chat]: I just want to clarify that if the person is smoking meth, which is much more likely than smoking fentanyl, the dangers are real. A child will test positive for meth if exposed to a brief second hand smoke. Roughly 33% of a dose is left to the environment. Residue can be left behind on the structures of the space a meth user regularly uses, which can stay poisonous until it is cleaned from hard surfaces. Soft surfaces typically need to be disposed of. * UWF Safety has not been able to verify these comments, and will reach out to Austin for the source of this information.
 - Aaron: I don't have those details. But in past discussions the concern has been with immediate exposure, like walking into a cloud of smoke.
 - [unknown]: EH&S is re-hiring the Occupational Health team so we will have people to address this.
 - Aaron: We tell everyone to notify UWPD but it sounds like UWPD only has a couple people on at night. 9 out of 10 times the response takes 15-20 minutes, which does nothing to solve the problem. Now our staff is getting to the point of just not calling UWPD. Most of the issues are at Meany Hall and Odegaard Library. What about having someone who is stationed in this area so they can respond promptly?
 - Derek: There is a safety and security patrol from 8pm – 4am. They send out their reports to those people who they think should receive them, and so not everyone sees these reports. This patrol is one car with two people and has not caused any real deterrence to criminal activity. That patrol ending at 4am, along with the UWPD shift change (6am?) creates a gap in patrol activity.
 - Aaron: I often see the police drive through an area without exiting their vehicles. They will never see the activity that is occurring in the stairwells unless they exit their vehicles and take a look.
 - Tracey: We will communicate that to UWPD about the need for them to descend the stairwells in order to halt the activities occurring there.
- CEUO (Eric): No report.
- F&A (Clayton): Nothing to report.
- M&C (Kyle): Nothing to report.
- RMO (Alison): No report.

- Transportation Services (Austin): Be careful when it is icy outside. Some of our vehicles were recently damaged due to driving in last month's icy conditions. If it is unnecessary to drive then don't do it.
- UW Safety (Tracey M): We're working on the human waste/drug cleanup concerns. We're trying to figure out the part of how to safely clean up drugs and the remnants of their use -- and there are surprisingly no standard procedures described by L&I or elsewhere. Chris is on the case trying to get information. But if something is going to take 8 hours to clean up that's most likely going to be outsourced to a contractor because of operational impacts.
- Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) (Mike): At Dempsey Indoor, ICA continues to block the electrical panels with equipment in the electrical rooms. Has anyone reached out to ICA on this?
 - Joe G.: Yes and this was handed off to ICA and EH&S, who are the ones to follow up.
 - Mike: Has anyone considered painting yellow lines to keep these areas clear?
 - Joe G.: The stadium has begun to do this.
 - Mike: Another concern is that at Conibear Shellhouse, they have replaced some gas motors with electric motors (assuming this is for the power boats? -CO), but there are no GFI outlets in the boathouse, so now they are running extension cords down to the boathouse to charge the motors. We see these cords run along the docks and some are dangling in the water, so that is a concern.
 - Joe: We can talk to the electricians, Jim Turner and others.
 - Mike: I'll put some photos in an email.
 - Nigel: Recommends creating an OARS report and placing the photos there.

OARS Reports

2022-12-

- 001 – A day after physical work, employee's back hurt.
 - Nigel: Lift with your knees, not your back.
- 040 – Employee cut finger while picking up broken glass.
 - No further discussion.
- 041 – While employee's work vehicle was parked, a public vehicle passed by and struck side mirror.
 - Austin: Can we have dash cams to get license plates in these scenarios?
 - Chris: That would be ideal. This is happening more and more. But that discussion involves several entities and considerations.
- 014 – Employee built scaffolding over restroom stall and felt pain in their left shoulder.
 - Joe G: During work of this nature it is important to coordinate lifting between employees to mitigate effects of improper or un-ergonomic lifting.
- 024 – Employee's back started hurting while talking to a customer, and pain increased throughout the day.
- 028 – Employee's arms and hands were sore after ten days of transporting job materials via dolly over rough pavement.

- Austin: There is a conflict in the OARS report where employee says there was no vehicle available to him but the supervisor says there was a vehicle available to him.
- Nigel: Can someone from M&C follow up on this?
- 038 – Employee and colleague encountered an individual yelling; the employees left the area and learned later from UWPD that the individual was threatening people with a club.
 - Nigel: Yes, UWPD needs to be called in any situation like this.
 - Chris: Never ever engage an individual in this scenario.
- 074 – Employee stepped off the bottom of a ladder to the bottom of a sewer pit, and the muck caught their foot, twisting their knee.
 - Joe G.: I followed up with Outside Zone, this one section is dirt and there was piping inside it that they were breaking up. Employee was back at work the next day.
 - Chris: I like the recommendation to Illuminate the Work Area.
- 087 – Employee slipped and fell walking down icy Quad steps (December 19th) and injured their right wrist and shoulder.
 - Aaron: There are quite a few reports in here involving ice. The one device we have for custodial staff (“Yaktrax”) is in short supply. These can be slipped on people’s shoes for better traction. We’ve put in orders to get more of these. Hopefully we’ll have more of these devices by the next time we have an ice situation.
- 085 – Right elbow and forearm pain may be due to repetitive overhead drilling, hammering, prying.
 - Chris: You should never drill over your head. Explore engineering controls (like laying on a lift platform) to complete the work.
- 090 – Employee lifted roll of linoleum, roll fell apart, causing employee to fall backwards and hit head and shoulder on floor.
 - Joe G.: I followed up with the supervisor. The roll was really heavy. Employee threw it over his shoulder and the linoleum telescoped out behind him. This is stuff that shouldn’t be lifted, a dolly should always be used. Employee understood this after the fact.
- 092 – Employee strained back manipulating 50# boxes of de-icer and slipping on ice.
 - Austin: Recommends using a push spreader rather than carrying a bucket to scoop the de-icer out of. Agreement from others.
- 112 – Employees noticed that their work van's fuel line had been cut and fuel stolen.
 - Austin: The majority of the time they’re just cutting the fuel line, they don’t try to remove the gas caps. We have about 6 vehicles this has happened to.
 - Daniel: This is the same as our lot at Northlake building where our vehicles continue to get hit and get damaged. One of our vehicles was stolen in the middle of the day recently. I know there are higher level conversations going on but it’s been a year or a year and a half and people are starting to feel hopeless about anything being done.
 - Nigel: Let’s keep submitting OARS reports that there is a problem and that it’s not being addressed.
- 113 – Employee descending stairs missed last step and fell, hurting foot.
 - Chris: Always have a hand available to hold onto the handrail.

- 117 – When employee plugged in backpack vacuum, the switch smoked.
 - Nigel: Didn't we replace these switches?
 - Aaron: In this case the cord was bent and the wires were exposed. Yes, all the switches were replaced last year.

- 118 – Employee standing by trash compactor was hit by moving plate that bruised his knee.
 - Joe G.: This metal plate swings out about 3 feet and there are no notices or demarcations about keeping the area clear. The switch to operate is away from the danger zone, but it was the secondary person who was hurt in this situation, who was trying to observe if the machine was working properly. We're following up about putting notices around this compactor.

- 119 – When employee entered restroom, member of public rushed at them and grabbed their shoulders.
 - Aaron: How did this person get to the 5th floor? There is card access only on that floor. There's a language barrier with some of the custodians so maybe that's why they didn't call the UWPD directly. And what of UWPD claiming they are too busy to respond?
 - Chris: I would hope that if we're creating reports, that these reports make their way up the chain of command, including the Reimagined Safety Committee.
 - Daniel: I notice people constantly trying to get into buildings by trailing other people that have proper access cards/keys. I think that Facility employees understand the situation, but that it's faculty/students that are more culpable for allowing people to enter that shouldn't be there.

EH&S Report

- No report.

New Business

- Nigel: Derek is taking over the elections committee position until April. We have two roles that need to be filled: Real Estate and BIT.

Meeting adjourned.

- Next UW-wide meeting is February 8, 2023
- Next HSC-2 meeting is February 16, 2023

CC: Lou Cariello, Vice President of Facilities, UW Office of the President
 Clayton Brainerd, Partner Resource Analyst, UW Facilities
 Erin McKeown, Accident Prevention Manager, Occupational Safety & Health, EH&S