



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Health & Occupational Safety Committee

Annual Report July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Chairman: Dr. Tom O. Spicer
Vice Chairman: Dr. Rod Williams (Upcoming Chairman 2013-2014)

Members:

Tom O. Spicer	Rod Williams
Brooke Moore	Michele Payne
Miriam K. Lonon	Reggie Houser
Barbara Abercrombie	Michael B. Stiles
Kelley D. Sharp	Wayne Brashear
Joseph A. Tokar	Stephen Gahagans
Stephanie L. Lowry	Rob Wiedenmann
Bill Durham	Jeff Mellon
Elizabeth A. Joseph	Mengjiao Liao

The Health & Occupational Safety Committee (H&OSC) met four times during this time period and an official quorum was available at each meeting. The Meetings were: 10/1/2012, 10/26/2012, 12/17/2012, and 5/14/2013.

Business Items Included:

1. Election of chairman and vice chairman. Dr. Tom Spicer was elected chairman and Dr. Rod Williams vice chairman.
2. Frequency of committee meetings and best times for the membership.
3. Worker's Compensation Reports tabulated by Risk Management were discussed and possible trends were discussed.

4. Construction accidents by contractors and student accidents on campus requiring medical treatment were also discussed and analyzed through Environmental Health & Safety reports.
5. Previous H&OSC requested Facility Management install standardized fire alarm systems in all new construction which would allow expansion of the University's mass alert notification system. Facility Management was asked to provide updates on the progress being made.
6. Discussed utilization of fire alarm system for emergency responses on a per building basis. Matt Mills, Public Safety Commander UAPD, discussed the recent emphasis placed on emergency response through University departments.
7. Congestion of pedestrian traffic and safety at the intersection of Dickson Street and McIlroy Ave.
8. Engineering Research Center's CVD Lab #350 was discussed in detail. This particular lab used four extremely hazardous chemicals that ignite when exposed to air and are fatal if inhaled. The chemical engineering department has made changes in safety procedures and trained employees in using SCBA respirators.
9. Consideration for the need of a "first responder system". A similar program utilized in the past was discussed. The impact of job descriptions, liability, and the Arkansas Good Samaritan Law was considered.
10. The need for additional Automated External Defibrillator training on Campus. Human Resources is offering open campus wide training session periodically and EH&S offers the training to departments upon request.
11. The introduction of extremely hazardous chemicals to campus and how to control future expansion. Discussion indicated that the Toxic Substances Committee (TSC) is also working on the same issue and that Dr. Bill Durham, H&OSC member, is also a member of the TSC. He promised updates of their work in process.
12. Concern over the lack of safety standards with the use of "nano" materials. The University's Nano Engineering group has a committee working on standards and procedures for the campus. Dr. Durham also promised updates of their work in process.
13. Complaints of cold temperatures in Leflar Law Center, Chemistry, Pomfret Hall, and the Athletic Departments were discussed at the May 14th meeting. EH&S agreed to contact Facilities Management's Utilities Section in an attempt to alleviate the problem.

14. Also discussed were reports that the automated pedestrian crossing controls at the Maple Street and Garland Avenue were not audibly “ticking down” all the time. EH&S accepted responsibility to do random inspections.

Motions Adopted by the Committee

Only one formal motion was adopted by the committee. After much discussion of a student injury on the stairs in the new Hillside Auditorium, the committees choose to submit a formal motion. The motion was submitted to the University Provost on June 20, 2013, by Dr. Tom Spicer, H&OSC Chairman. It asks that stairs in future University buildings always have a “non-slip or slip resistant surface” on the toe of “all” stairs to reduce fall hazards. The motion reads:

Motion

The University should revise exiting construction, engineering, and architectural standards to require a non-slip or slip resistant surface be placed on the toe or nosing of all stairs, steps, and landings inside buildings for the purpose of reducing fall hazards. It is expected that this standard will be written to be compliant with International Building Codes. It is the intent of this motion that the standard will be utilized by contractors, architects, engineers, and University staff involved in designing and installing new facilities (new construction, remodeling, and replacements) for the University and that exceptions to the standard will be rare and approved only at the highest levels (such as the Associate Vice Chancellor or Vice Chancellor level). The Committee believes that such a construction standard will reduce accidents and injuries over the life of University facilities and will improve safety for the University community. The Committee recognizes that this standard is not currently required by the International Building Code, but the Occupational Safety & Health Administration does require that all stair treads be reasonably slip resistant and their nosings be nonslip finish. Establishing such a standard and applying it will demonstrate the University’s commitment to and the importance of safety.

Approved and submitted (electronic file) June 28, 2013, by:
Dr. Rod Williams, Vice Chairman, for Dr. Tom Spicer, Committee Chairman