

Willamette University Occupational Safety & Health Committee
September 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes



Keep until 9/23/2012

Members in Attendance

Rich Dennis, Facilitator-Campus Safety ext. 6907	Suzie Torre-Cross, Facilitator Elect, Human Resources ext 4043	Ramona Murtha, International Education ext. 5493
Linda Lombard, Financial Affairs ext. 6728	Jim Ames, Facilities-Bldg Maintenance ext. 4287	Margaret Schue, College of Law ext. 6140
Jennifer Butler, Biology Dept. ext 6483	Alice French, Hatfield Library Ext. 6476	Mike Ryan, Facilities Services ext. 6802

Members in Absentia

Mary Ann Zielinski, Health Center ext. 4360	Skip Kenitzer, Athletics Dept. ext 6257	
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Old Business:

Item 1

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed and approved with the correction of the stadium name from McCall to McCulloch Stadium.

Item 2

The condition of the bleachers in the Cone Field House was assessed by Jim Ames and Rich Dennis. Pictures were taken by Rich and he almost stepped off the landing as depth perception is skewed due to the layout. It was determined that this poses a very high fall hazard and subsequent high liability. Jim and Ira will research and get more information regarding aluminum railings for the walkways/ledges of the bleachers, photos are attached.

Item 3

Work on the crosswalk by Mill Street and the Sororities is currently at a standstill. Initially, funding had been approved to correct this crossing hazard, but Jim stated that he has been told that there is no funding available. Linda Lombard will check with Bob Olson regarding the funding status.

New Business

Item 1

Rich informed the committee that the university will undergo a comprehensive OSHA consultation in mid-October. This consultation is expected to take about 3-5 days as Rich and the consultant do a thorough walk-through of every room, in every building on campus to check for unsafe hazards. A report of findings will be generated, after completion of the consultation, and provided to the all Department heads and the Safety Committee outlining recommendations and timelines for the correction of any identifiable hazards.

Item 2

The safety committee received a request to review the slip hazard on the smooth cement breezeway between Belknap and Matthews. This area gets very slick during the rainy weather and poses a fall risk. Jim Ames recommended a treatment for glassy concrete that is used on pool surfaces. Mike Ryan also mentioned that the same issue exists on the cement walkways around Ford Hall. He mentioned the possibility of removing the sealant, which would create a 'gritty' surface to the concrete, and will explore other treatment options which could be implemented in both locations.

Item 3

The issue of a potential slip/trip and fall hazard on the main stairs in Sparks was revisited. Rich stated that he will meet with Leslie Berning-Wright and Mike Ryan to assess the situation and to determine if the carpet should be replaced and if so, make a recommendation. Existing issues with the stairs are: 1) the nose of the stair wears down and becomes smooth and 2) the stairway is narrow and the rise is steep.

Item 4

An email was received from Ann Nicgorski raising the concern about a temporary strut that was installed to support the damaged ceiling beam in Art 204 over a year ago. Jim Ames commented that the strut is a solid 20x20 beam and the cracks that are observed are due to aging and do not contribute to weakening its support capabilities. Rich stated that he and Jan Gardner will take a look at the beam to assess its condition and re-evaluate the situation.

Item 5

An email was received from Jeff Bolt requesting consideration for blocking-off through traffic in the alley between the Executive building and the Law School. It is perceived as a short-cut and, even though speed bumps have been installed, it has been observed that traffic down that alley tends to be driven in a careless manner and places faculty and staff in harm's way as the entrance/exits to both buildings are via the traffic corridor.

The committee discussed the feasibility of converting the alleyway to a 1-way, southbound access. We also looked at the possibility of adding various signage(s): 1-Way/Do Not Enter/Caution Pedestrians. It was resolved that this issue needed further research for a viable solution.

Item 6

The issue of bicycles being chained to railings due to the lack of bike racks was brought to the committee's attention. It has been noted that the increased usage of bikes on campus is a positive result of the sustainability initiative to encourage bike riding. However, this is a safety hazard as it restricts and blocks access to hand rails and people could fall when going down the stairs. Campus Safety does issue warnings notices to bikes that are improperly 'racked', however, enforcement is informal at best and they are unable to issue tickets. Additionally, bikes are not allowed in the buildings.

Micheal Seraphin is taking photos to determine which railings and bike racks are being utilized and may move under-utilized bike racks to areas of higher demand. Rich will get together with Micheal Seraphin to determine the long range goal. A suggestion was raised that maybe WU could do a survey through the Bike Shop to suggest where more bike parking should be allocated. Rich will follow-up with Jill Munger about the survey creation and distribution.

Item 7

A request was made to address the visibility hazard when exiting the business college parking lot, as there are two sweet gum trees at the west end near the driveway and the vegetation growth hinders incoming traffic when leaving the parking lot. Additionally, it was stated that the roots of the trees lift and break the pavement which creates a trip/fall hazard. Rich looked at the trees and placed a work order and they were trimmed back to increase visibility, however after checking with Jim Ames, there is nothing that can be done at this time with regard to the cement and the cracking of the pavement.

Item 8

Injury log was reviewed and from Jan-Sept. 2009, there have been ten (10) reportable worker's compensation injuries.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Suzie Torre-Cross GBA, Human Resources Analyst

Next meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Place: Smith Gallery, Smith Auditorium

Time: 9:00 AM

