**MINUTES**

University Safety and Health Committee

September 11, 2015 10:00 am

Student Center

Attendees: Cliff Anderson, Richard Bachoo, Sharon Braverman, Domenic Forcella, Rene Karas-Johnson, Sally Lesik, Carol Morano, April Palombizio, William Reiser, Olivia Roman

Absent: Laurie Colburn, Neil Glagovich, Ray Primini (DAS)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Karas-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m. Minutes from the April 10, 2015 meeting were reviewed. C. Anderson motioned to approve the minutes, and C. Morano seconded the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Review of E-mails Received

No e-mails received.

New Residence Hall:

R. Karas-Johnson announced that the Mid-Campus Residence Hall has been completed, along with several other projects from the summer which are finishing up.

Member Concerns and Suggestions

* C. Anderson described concerns pertaining to the Student Bridge Project and working conditions in the Civil Engineering Beechum Lab where most of the fabrication and spray painting work is completed, typically in the spring. He explained that the lab (which is a multi-purpose space) was not designed for this use, specifically metal grinding which results in a fine, metal dust. He asked for independent eyes and recommendations to ensure a safe work area for the students (i.e. alternate location, special equipment and/or clean up efforts, etc.). D. Forcella suggested more ventilation, use of a spray booth, and the possibility of students designing their own safety program as they did with wind tunnel and rocket projects. R. Karas offered that C. Anderson send a note through his Chair requesting a special cleanup work order to Steve VanVoorhis of Custodial Services. She also mentioned that the long term solution will be completion of the new engineering building. Discussion ensued concerning OSHA regulations and inspections between D. Forcella, C. Morano, and C. Anderson, resulting in D. Forcella advising he would reach out to the OSHA consultant to inquire about an information session for the approximately 4-6 students affected.
* S. Braverman asked the Committee what is the University’s official response to smoking on campus in terms of punishment. It was shared that there will be a fourth smoking hut added near Kaiser in a location TBD. Staff observing smoking should politely inform smokers to move to an approved location. S. Braverman indicated that there are still students walking through campus while smoking. C. Morano added that a reminder e-mail was sent from the President to the e-mail list-serve.
* D. Forcella advised that Residence Hall alarms are being set-off by e-cigarettes. Students caught smoking e-cigarettes are being routed through the University’s judicial process/Christopher Dukes. He also advised that secondhand e-cigarette smoke still poses health risks, and according to an article he read e-cigarettes are being used for other (illegal) smoking.
* S. Braverman shared that ice forms quickly on the Vance walkway bridge and stairs. R. Bachoo advised that staff will pay close attention that those areas, and R. Karas confirmed Facilities Management is already in the process of preparing for these conditions.
* S. Braverman advised that she has observed extra food in the dining centers and inquired about the possibility of organizing a food donation effort for a local food bank (i.e. the Friendship Center). D. Forcella described the various considerations/issues concerning donations of food that has already been cooked (how was it handled, refrigeration, transport, etc.). R. Bachoo advised that Sodexo has done a lot to limit overcooking and food waste, but unfortunately much food goes to waste everyday nationwide due to liability issues – the Good Samaritan Law does not always hold up in court should consumption of donated food result in illness/death. He suggested that the University could interact with Sodexo to see if they would be willing to put together a plan and/or ask if they would be willing to direct some support to the New Britain community. A. Palombizio shared that through public radio she heard somewhere in Arizona a Town Hall building housed what she believed was a city-owned refrigerator specifically set up to store food donations. She also mentioned the nursing students participate in a homeless clinic.
* Committee discussions led to the CCSU apple orchard and public requests for apple picking. R. Bachoo described that in addition to the concerns of pesticides, chemicals, worms, etc. the orchard is specifically for environmental/academic purposes through a protective covenant (Resolution).
* D. Forcella advised that the CT Fastrak busway provided over 93,000 rides last year and in doing so is reducing our carbon footprint. According to the Governor, ridership has been higher than expected. D. Forcella mentioned parking at the station is an issue. He also shared that the CCSU Card Office issues 1,000 free Fastrak tickets to students each semester on a first-come, first-serve basis.
* R. Bachoo announced that the Threat Assessment training sessions are ramping back up this semester. He defined a threat as anything affecting safety and advised that these sessions are usually 30 minutes long with a focus on staff/faculty. Environmental threats (i.e. Ebola) are usually handled by Facilities Management/D. Forcella.
* S. Braverman asked if CCSU has generators and could serve as a haven for those in need during emergencies. R. Bachoo responded that CCSU has fuel cells and generators to maintain the campus, particularly in the Residence Halls and Memorial Hall. He further explained that CCSU would not serve as a public haven unless requested by the State; there must be a planned action and adequate staff available, among other considerations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.

The next University Safety and Health Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 2015 in the Student Center’s Sprague/Carlton Room.

Respectfully submitted,

O. Roman