Minutes of the Memorial University &
Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association
Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee (JOHSC) Meeting

Tuesday, October 8, 2009

9:00 p.m.
Inco Innovation Centre, Room IIC-1034

Present: Dr. Robert Gendron, MUNFA Representative and Co-Chair; Dr. George Jenner, MUNFA Representative; Dr. Barbara Neis, MUNFA Representative; Mr. Ian McKinnon, MUN Representative and Co-Chair;

Apologies: Ms. Sheila Miller, Director of Health and Safety

Minutes taken by: R. Kelly

1. The Agenda was approved and submitted.

2. The Minutes from the May 19, 2009 meeting was approved and accepted by the committee members present.

3. Update on items “for Action” from May 19th meeting:
   a) Update on OHS Committee Restructuring – the committee did meet and have sent a report to the provincial government. The overarching committee consist of members from other OHS committees (CUPE, NAPE and MUNFA, etc). It was suggested that a representative from each committee should meet as a group with the appropriate office to discuss the formation of a Tier 1 Committee. A letter can be sent to the correct office and copied to the Department of Health and Safety and all other Occupational Health and Safety committees.
   
   b) Scent Free Committee – Dr. Gendron mentioned that there are photocopies of Scent-Free posters placed throughout the University and not an actual printed poster, but no indication of who is responsible for the placement of the information.
   
   c) Waste Disposal – the Department of Health and Safety are in the process of tendering for the clean up of legacy chemicals. It was indicated that communication to the University community about the tracking of chemicals and a clear concise strategy on dealing with these chemicals and the risk assessment. If there is a contact person in the Health and Safety department that interested parties could contact and ask for advice or direction on this matter. Mr. McKinnon indicated that he would follow up on this.
   
   d) Biohazard Committee – Dr. Gendron mentioned that there is still no chair for this committee and that a Tier 1 committee would be of help to go through the Phase 1, 2, and 3 of Bill C11 compliance. Also, to assess how Bio-hazard protocols are
handled. It was suggested that the committee could meet with other committees to see who to approach and establish a Tier 1 committee.

4. New Business

i) Campus Safety for Bikers – Dr. Gendron reported that an ASM was involved in an accident on campus while riding his bike. Concerns were raised about sustainability at the university. That now is a good time to establish a bike trail as part of the Grand-Course. Dr. Neis suggested that a letter to the Sustainability committee might help to bring this about.

ii) Roof Work and Workplace dust policy about informing faculty/staff about any scheduled exterior work that affects interior workspace - Mr. McKinnon indicated that Facilities Management are consistent with informing the university community about any on-going work schedules from issuing notification through Newsline and paper mailed to departments throughout the university.

iii) Fume Hood Shutdown Issue – QuadraTec inspected fume hoods throughout the summer and indicated that a number of the fume hoods be shut down and some used with caution. Alarms on a number of them were not working. Dr. Jenner mentioned that the ones not working should be prioritized to have them working as soon as possible in the Earth Sciences, Science and the Engineering buildings. Questions were raised in regards is there a report update; are there going to be regular scheduled inspections; and were fume hoods checked at the Health Science, in Pharmacy and Medicine, if so is there a report?

Dr. Jenner inquired about the fume hood in Room SN-1069 and if the problem was fixed. Mr. McKinnon indicated the problem was intermittent and that the Dean of Science’s office would be following up with Facilities Management.

iv) Asbestos Results, Various Buildings – The University and MUNFA have a Memorandum of Understanding, in which the university will test on an annual basis. A report was done over the summer and 28 buildings were checked and all were in the acceptable range. Questions were brought up as to what is the acceptable range in Newfoundland; was the Health Science captured in the report; is there a master asbestos abatement plan? Mr. McKinnon indicated that the Health Science probably doesn’t have records like the university because the building falls under Eastern Health.

v) Update on H1N1 – One overall committee was formed to plan and deal with this issue with regard to student evaluation and reporting. Faculty only had to report a cancelled class and how many students were missing. The committee have a plan ready to put in place. Dr. Gendron asked about immunization and Mr. McKinnon indicated that the School of Nursing would be involved with immunizing.

5. Other Business

There wasn’t any new business brought up.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.