

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE

The ninety-fifth meeting of the Occupational Health & Safety Policy Committee was held at 10 am on Wednesday 19 August 2009 in the Ross Hohnen Room, the Chancelry.

MINUTES

Present:

Mr R Watts, Director, Human Resources (Chair)
Prof A Byrne, Dean of Science, College of Medicine, Biology & Environment,
College of Physical Sciences
Mr B Lane, Ass Director, Facilities & Services
Ms K McKenzie, JCSMR, College of Medicine, Biology & Environment
Mr N Kaines, FEIT, College of Engineering & Computer Science
Ms K Collier, Division of Information
Mr M Schmidt-Liermann, Risk Management & Audit Office
Mr L Welling, Chemistry, College of Physical Sciences
Ms A Daun, College of Law
Dr J Lo, College of Arts & Social Science (for Prof J Beaumont)
Mr G Lillicrap, College of Arts & Social Sciences
Mr D Boyd, RSPAS, College of Asia & the Pacific

Apologies:

Prof J Beaumont, College of Arts & Social Sciences
Ms M Jarvis, Finance & Business Services
Ms J Veitch, College of Business & Economics
Prof R Welberry, Chemistry, College of Physical Sciences
Dr A Christy, Geology, College of Physical Sciences

In Attendance:

Mr L Tomlinson, Manager, Work Environment
Ms S Sutton, OHS Branch

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Meeting endorsed the Minutes of the ninety-fourth meeting ([OHSPC2/2009, 200810041](#)) (see web link http://info.anu.edu.au/hr/assets/OHS/OHS_Policy_Committee/Polmin209.pdf).

3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Manual Task Injury Reduction Strategy

HSWE Branch is developing a pilot manual task injury reduction strategy in conjunction with Bioscience Services (Hugh Ennor Building) who have had a relatively high level of manual task related injuries due to the nature of their work. This comprehensive program will work towards reducing rates/severity of injuries initially at Bioscience Services and will then be rolled out to other areas of the University.

Action: Manager, Work Environment, HSWE Branch, to distribute further advice on pilot strategy implementation at the next meeting.

4 STANDING ITEMS

4.1 OHS Performance at ANU

Manager, Work Environment, presented a paper for discussion on the University's OHS performance. Comparisons between the ANU, Go8 Universities and other government agencies show good results in most areas. Of concern is the ANU's high average lost time rate (30 days in 2008 increasing from 20 days in 2007). The increase is mainly related to claims involving occupational overuse injuries and bullying/harassment, with each claim type costing in the region of \$300,000 and \$750,000 respectively. Bullying/harassment injury numbers are still very low at the ANU but are an expensive claim type that needs immediate preventative action.

Future OHS performance reports will provide College/Administrative injury data. 2008 data has been rechecked for accuracy and reports to individual Colleges/ Administrative areas will go out in the next few weeks. Consideration is also being given to devolving workers' compensation premium costs based on an area's claims' performance. A paper on this issue will be presented to the Committee at a later date.

Manager, HSWE Branch has joined a working party to revise the OHS indicators within the HR Benchmarking data compiled by QUT. The working party will examine for accuracy and usefulness definitions used for the various OHS performance categories.

4.2 HSWE Manager's Report

Two incidents have occurred since the last meeting involving breaches of electrical safety. In the first incident incorrect testing/tagging procedures meant that power was incorrectly restored to an area, causing a small fire. The fire was discovered quickly and only minor damage resulted. The other incident involved the design/modification of electrical equipment which was signed off by an unauthorised person. These two incidents highlight the need for staff to be made aware of the electrical safety procedures, particularly in relation to testing/tagging and design/modification of electrical equipment.

The development of the OHS induction questionnaire, as raised in the Deloitte Audit of the ANU's OHS Management System, is almost completed. It will be sent out within the next two weeks.

The initial meeting of the working party on the management of plant at the ANU has been postponed but will be rescheduled shortly. The working party will identify the requirement of the ANU's plant management system and assess whether the current Maximo system will meet the requirements for managing plant.

4.4 OHS Performance/Good Practice Presentation

Presentations have been deferred to the next meeting. These presentations, by Colleges initially, will be used to share new ideas, current happenings and good practice in OHS.

Action: A schedule of presentations will be distributed prior to the next meeting.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Building Projects – OHS Issues. The Assistant Director, Facilities and Services reported that the site of the new College of Sciences buildings had increased. Significant work was being done on funding submissions for future projects on campus. New demountables are about to be located adjacent to Building 10C to house CEDAM. The draft traffic management consultants' report has been received.

Bicycle accidents on campus. Pedestrians, runners and bicycle riders have been involved in collisions on campus because lights have not been used. Also a pathway that is commonly used by cyclists is to be closed on Dickson Road to avoid possible collision with construction traffic.

8 NEXT MEETING

Date: 18 November 2009

Place: Ross Hohnen Room, Chancelry

Time: 10am – 12pm

The Meeting closed at 10.35am.