

Minutes
Health, Safety and Environment Committee
Education Building Room 202
1:00- November 30, 2006

Members Present: Carol Higy, Jeremy Sellers, Stephen Robison, Pamela Barkett, Steve Martin, Cynthia Herndon, Richard Vela, Chair.

Members Excused: Ronnie Martin

Guests: Janita Byers

Dr. Richard Vela called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

The minutes of February 15, 2006 were approved with minor corrections to include Ms. Cynthia Herndon present at the February meeting.

The agenda was adopted with the changes to move the New Business ahead of the Old Business to allow time for Dr. Janita Byers to attend the discussion regarding healthier foods in vending machines.

Report from the Chair

Dr. Vela asked for volunteers for secretary for the semester for the Health, Safety and Environment Committee, explaining that there would be two meetings in the spring. Cynthia Herndon agreed to serve as secretary for academic year 2006- 2007. Dr. Vela explained that a September meeting was not called due to the fact he did not have election data until late in the semester to indicate who would be serving on the committee for this academic year.

Report from Physical Plant

Dr. Vela reported that Larry Freeman and Mark Veseley would not be able to attend today. Mr. Steve Martin stated his newly acquired position as Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Facilities Management had been open for a number of months prior to his appointment. He hopes to become a member of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee to form consolidation of physical plant functions and this committee in regards to policy, protocol and assurance. He stated that 11/30/06 marks one month that he has held the position. He has many new challenges to look forward to as the university is ready for a holistic approach to the needs of health, safety and environmental issues. Dr. Vela added that Mr. Martin's current position had originally been designated as a key role for this committee to interface between faculty, institution and administration and welcomed Mr. Martin to our committee.

Report from Human Resources

Ms. Barkett reported that 25 applicants had been received for the Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Facilities Management position. Some applicants withdrew, possibly due to the time span between advertisement and interviews. Bess Tyner served as chair of the

committee and the interviews and analysis was carried out well. Ms. Barkett expressed that the search was exhaustive and everyone is very pleased to have Mr. Martin in this position.

New Business

A. *Review of the August 30, 2006 mold incident in Dial and the procedures taken to remedy it:*

Mr. Martin stated that there were concerns regarding mold in the Dial Building that would cause the reproduction of the same problems experienced previously in the Dial Building in 2003. Students had also reported mold in Pine Hall. Steps taken to remedy these problems are focused on a replacement of HVAC controls with a digital control system. Mr. Martin stated that the humidity is the issue and that it is HVAC related. UNCP will take steps to replace the air handling unit if this is found to be the cause. Dr. Vela stated faculty are not aware of when the HVAC checks are being made. Mr. Martin stated that a schedule is available on the Preventive Maintenance Website, where faculty can view results as well as the schedule. Ms. Barkett suggested that perhaps Taylor could publish a schedule in the Braves Bulletin (Link in Braves Bulletin) to decrease the anxiety among faculty and assure everyone that steps are being taken to resolve this issue. Dr. Vela stated that there was a greater sense of anxiety than anyone had realized among some faculty members.

B. *Review of the October 2006 report of mold in Pine Hall. Material from Mr. Larry Freeman and Mr. Preston Swiney:*

Dr. Vela stated that some students were concerned that mold found in Pine Hall was just painted over. Mr. Martin stated that samples were taken for analysis of mold, but the results were that there was dust and dirt build up. The remedy was normal maintenance of the building, which required cleaning and painting. This quick response was reassuring. The humidity problem will be remedied by the numeric controls changed out to digital controls, which should resolve the issues. Mr. Martin stated that in some cases, there have been misconceptions regarding mold versus dirt and dust.

C. *Information regarding the October 5, 2006 injury of Mr. Derek Brewer and Mr. Greg Harris of the UNCP Physical Plant:*

Mr. Martin explained that the LP furnace experienced a “blow back” on October 5, 2006, when the vessel filled with gas and the vapors ignited. Mr. Derek Brewer had his head and shoulders in the vessel when the blow back occurred and suffered the most injury. He is now recovering at home. After the incident, he was taken to the NC Burn Center. Mr. Greg Harris was treated at SRMC in Lumberton and discharged home immediately after the incident. Mr. Martin explained this is an example of how even routine maintenance can be dangerous and that proper procedures should be in place and taken. He assured the committee that the vessel did not explode, but experienced a blow back. Ms. Barkett added that Mr. Brewer’s medical bills were being covered by Worker’s Compensation and his leave is continued at 66.6% of regular wages through Worker’s Compensation. She further explained that persons receiving Worker’s Compensation benefits are not eligible for Shared Leave, but the Worker’s Compensation benefits are not taxed, so the actual dollar amount may be comparable to a regular full pay check.

D. Motion by Mr. Steve Martin to reconsider and re-state the February 15, 2006 motion regarding planting one tree for every tree removed on the UNCP campus:

Mr. Martin expressed a need to be careful how we craft proposals as to not make unnecessary rules that may hinder progress in positive changes for our campus. He further stated that he is not an advocate of taking trees down, but we usually plant more trees than we take down. This issue will be revisited under old business at the February, 2007 meeting.

Old Business

Status of the proposal to reserve a portion of our vending machines for healthier foods:

Dr. Vela stated that according to Dr. Neil Hawk, there should be no problem proceeding with this action. Dr. Vela reported that another meeting will be held Tuesday, December 5, 2006 to determine what we want to do and how we will proceed in accomplishing our goals. Ms. Barkett suggested that Sonya Tinsley in Health Promotions be contacted to determine survey results that she has in regard to faculty and staff responses to healthier lifestyles and eating. This might give us a clue as to how we should proceed. Mr. Martin questioned restrictions of vendors. Ms. Barkett stated that our vendor is *Toms*. Dr. Higby noted that not all of the soda machines on UNCP campus carry water. Dr. Janita Byers stated that her concern is that the students are at the mercy of what the vending machines offer. She further gave specific examples of students in the marching band who had gained up to 50 pounds and that the students would spend large amounts of money on the unhealthy snacks and share among their group. Dr. Vela stated that in a sense, UNCP was contributing to the poor health and obesity of the students. Dr. Sellers added that based upon research, trans fats cause heart disease and that Sodexo may want to look at altering the oils that they prepare the foods in to take a proactive stance. Mr. Martin suggested that we research what Sodexo uses prior to proposing the change. Mr. Martin also added that the university would probably consider what appeals to students as a recruiting tool and that in bringing in franchises, we lose control of how the food is prepared. Dr. Sellers maintained that in New York, trans fats are outlawed and made the suggestion that UNCP set standards and negotiate with franchises to keep the standards of the university in order to keep food healthier. Dr. Robison suggested that students be given choices of healthier snacks and food. It was affirmed by the committee that prior to the next meeting that Dr. Vela will 1) get in touch with Sonya Tinsley regarding survey results; 2) Contact cafeteria director to ascertain the products used in meal preparation; and 3) utilize the vending area in the Oxendine Building as a model for our proposal for healthier snacks. Dr. Vela stated that he will send out an e-mail to notify the committee of our next meeting times for February and April.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.