

**Spokane Community College
Environmental Health and Safety Committee
2010-2011**

Date of Meeting: May 5, 2011
Place: Lair – Second Floor Conference Room
Time: 2:30 – 3:30pm

Committee Members Present: Lynn Thompson, Jim Roth, Dennis Johnson, Chris Ewegen, Jeff Rogers, Brett Farrar, Claudia Robertson-Toews, Kevin Bartle, Sarah Coe, Tyler Ables, Scott Jones

Committee Members Absent: Dave Cox, Tom Hollingshead, Art Capello, Jeff Steele, Tyler Beasley, Ed Solum, Cindy Friedman, Cindy Usher, Charles Robbins, Linda Poage, Michael Brady

Others present: Terri McKenzie, Molly Kreyssler-Childs, Suzanne Saunders

Jim Roth called the meeting to order and the members and guests present introduced themselves.

The meeting began with Terri McKenzie (VP Student and Instructional Services) and Molly Kreyssler-Childs (Director of Student Success Services) discussing the incorporation of campus evacuation procedures into the First Year Introduction program. It was concluded that Tyler Ables will address the FYI students for 3 to 5 minutes during the first morning session and a page will be added to the student booklet with evacuation procedure information.

Dennis Johnson introduced Suzie Saunders, a student with a respiratory condition who wanted to express concern over campus smoking. Dennis shared that a number of students have approached him expressing concern about being unable to access buildings without being exposed to second hand smoke. Some people have severe sensitivity to smoke and must avoid exposure. There have been complaints also from people who use the wheelchair ramps who find smokers lingering at or near the ramp. They are outside the 25 foot parameter, but the ramp user has no option other than to use that route and be exposed to the smoke.

Suzie shared her story as a person with persistent chronic asthma who is pursuing Respiratory Care training here at SCC. When she is having a flare-up, "every single breath counts". She describes being forced to walk through clouds of second hand smoke every day as she enters certain buildings. Smokers may be at or beyond the 25 foot parameter, but people still must walk through the crowd and through the wall of smoke to get to the entrance. She opined that our campus is in violation of the CCS Administrative Procedures regarding the Student Code of Conduct. "...CCS will maintain a high standard of integrity and honesty; and will respect the rights, privileges, and property of other members of the college community." Under the section titled "Prohibiting unsafe acts or unhealthful practices" it states that any violation of sound health and safety practices shall not be permitted. The section "Abuse of self or others" prohibits physical abuse, threats, intimidation and/or other conduct which threatens the health or safety of any person. She expressed that it is unreasonable to allow students to smoke wherever they want to on campus at the cost of other students' health and safety. She specifically made the following recommendations: 1) that there be a smoke free entrance into every single building on campus, 2) that smoking should not be allowed within 100 feet of an entrance, 3) that lines be drawn

to show the perimeter so students can self-enforce, and that 4) we strive to eventually become a smoke-free campus.

Terri McKenzie shared with the group some of the actions that have occurred up to this point to address this issue on the SCC campus. A student survey last year showed about a 50/50 split between smokers and non-smokers on campus, although many smokers expressed the need to respect the non-smokers right to not be exposed to smoke. Changes being considered at this time include creating a non-smoking corridor and expanding non-smoking zones at certain building entrances, such as Building 50 and Building 1. She feels that we need to have stronger backing from the student sector to make significant changes. She is working with Jeff Teal (Campus Facilities) to make these changes. There is an effort underway at SFCC to make changes in their smoking policy.

Scott made a motion that our committee draft a letter directed to both our administration and the student government expressing our concern that the current campus smoking policy constitutes a health and safety hazard that needs to be addressed. Dennis seconded the motion. Jim appointed Dennis to draft a letter to be reviewed by the committee before it is finalized.

Scott reviewed the Building Self Inspection sheet and the April Incident Report. He noted that there was a significant incident at the aviation facility that does not appear yet on the report because he has not yet received the incident report. He emphasized the importance of turning in incident reports in a timely manner.

Tyler gave a security report. He noted a significant increase in the number of people cited for smoking violations in the last month. He also reported 3 vehicle collisions, damage to a smoking hut, slashed tires on a security vehicle, 3 vehicle thefts, 4 womens' locker room thefts, and a robbery in the parking lot (drug deal gone bad). There was some discussion about the value vs cost of having parking lot cameras. They are expensive to set up and maintain, but often result in capturing crooks.

We held elections and Jim Roth graciously agreed to serve another term. Although committee membership is only supposed to be one year, we generally agreed that it takes time to get in tune with the committee and most of us have served over a year. Jim has done a great job and has the confidence of the group. Dennis agreed to continue to take minutes. We thank Jim for his willingness to serve another year as committee chair and for all his accomplishments of this past year.

Finally, Scott reported that 14 people completed certification for forklift operating, many programs are moving toward using water based solvents and paints, and he received approval of the pollution prevention plan for the district.

Because we are nearing the end of the quarter, we will not formally meet again until the first Thursday in October (10/6). We will have email communication as needed in the interim.

Prepared by Dennis Johnson