



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
HUMAN RESOURCES & EQUITY

TO: Business Board

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DATE: April 14, 2009 for April 17, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 5(c)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Health and Safety Requirements – Quarterly Report on Compliance

Professor Hildyard has undertaken to provide the Business Board with quarterly statements with respect to the University's compliance with legal requirements in the area of Health and Safety. This is the first quarterly statement for 2009.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Business Board is responsible for monitoring health and safety compliance. This report is an information update since our last report.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Outlined above.

STATEMENT:

1. Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) Orders

The Ontario Ministry of Labour visited the St. George campus 6 times since the last report. 18 orders were received from these visits. 14 of the orders concerned the 89 Chestnut St. kitchen and associated operations. Three orders dealt with a contractor who was working on a F&S project without observing asbestos handling procedures. One order concerned a tripping hazard in the 263 McCaul building. All orders have been complied with. Following compliance to the orders associated with 89 Chestnut St., EH&S decided to develop a new kitchen safety program.

2. Regulatory Audits

The CNSC audited three times since the last report. All non-compliances have been addressed by the Radiation Protection Service. In addition to addressing CNSC non-compliance, our radiation safety officers are now systemically providing increased oversight to repeat offenders. The RPS started a new procedure which includes a signed commitment letter from the principal investigator, as well as delegates with authority to follow up on compliance issues.

3. Federal Regulatory Activity - Biosafety

Bill C-11, a Federal bill concerning the safety and security of human pathogens and toxins, has passed third reading. The Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) now has authority to create legislation to control biological activities at Universities. The most objectionable and costly elements of the original bill (tabled as Bill C-54) were removed before third reading. The University of Toronto influenced change through sponsorship of public consultations, direct conversations, and written submissions. The Office of EH&S, Office of Vice President of HR& Equity, Office of Vice President of Research, Faculty of Medicine as well as principal investigators representing many faculties and departments across the University developed our position and participated in the lobby process. We anticipate that further input will be sought from the University community while PHAC writes specific regulations.

4. Database Management System for Radiation, Biosafety, Chemicals and Waste

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety purchased the EH&S software system which will track and inventory our radioisotopes, biologicals and chemicals. The roll-out of the software began with a 2 hour meeting with 76 end-users representing all three campuses.

Summary

In summary, based on the reports I have received through the operation of our occupational health and safety policy, and except with reference to the items described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, to the best of my knowledge the University is in compliance with its health and safety obligations.