

Safety in the Workplace Committee

Annual Report – 09/10

The Safety in the issue, and whose work and recommendations are prepared for full Committee review. Additionally, as a part of

its standing work, the Committee reviewed a number of quarterly, biannual and annual department and program reports to identify trends, potential safety issues and emerging challenges and opportunities.

A summary of the Committee's work this year is as follows:

1. Workplace Accident Reduction:

The Committee continues to focus considerable attention to reducing workplace accidents. Unfortunately, the accident numbers continue to climb, with 2010 YTD recording an all time high for the number of lost work days. New initiatives such as the reward program for departments who don't experience lost work days within a 90 day period have been largely unsuccessful in stemming this tide. A subcommittee has been created to look at this issue in depth and to identify other actions that can make an impact. The subcommittee has begun reviewing each accident and its root cause in detail, looking for trends and patterns that may have been previously missed. Safety training and emphasis at the department level has been reinforced. The subcommittee is looking at other recommendations including a more aggressive and robust return to work program, a stronger pre-employment physical assessment program that is more consistent with the physical requirements of a particular job, and continuing to strengthen the departmental safety educational efforts. Additionally, employees who appear to have multiple accidents will be meeting with a loss control expert in one on one meetings to determine if there are issues that are causing a tendency to be accident prone. Employees who are discovered engaging in unsafe work practices will be disciplined related to job performance as appropriate. Reducing accidents will remain a strong focus for the next academic year.

2. Policy/procedure review:

Several policies and procedures were addressed by the Committee this year including PPE Respiratory protection, space heater and electrical extension cord use, and procedures for the cleanup of fluorescent light bulbs.

