

**BANGOR UNIVERSITY**  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010

**Present:** Dr A R Beaumont (Chair), Dr D Assinder, Miss S Barnes, Mr R Behi, Dr G Clarke, Mr J East, Mr E Evans, Mr D N Fordham, Mr M Goodwin, Mr J Jackson, Prof M Khan, Dr J Latchford, Ms C Monks, Dr L Murphy, Ms S Peris-Owen, Mr G Parry, Mr J Patton, Dr G Roberts, Mr I Salisbury, Mr G W. Jones (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Mr H Ellis, Ms L Fowlie, Mr P Hogan, Mr A John, Mr W Jones, Miss E Riches, Dr D M Roberts, Mr E W. Roberts, Mr S Roberts.

**NOTE:** The Chair welcomed Professor M Khan who replaces Dr D Wright and Dr D Assinder, attending as an observer.

**350. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

**351. MATTERS ARISING**

**(a) Minute 343(c) Fire Alarm Pager:**

The problems with the Ocean Sciences pager system, which caused interference with the Safe Normal pager system, have been resolved.

**(b) Minute 344(vi) Radon Policy Standard:**

It was noted the second phase radon survey has identified two areas with radon measurements above the action level. Mitigation measures will be undertaken in these areas and a further radon survey of each building, previously not surveyed, will be undertaken during the coming winter. A full Report is expected in Easter 2011.

**352. REPORT FROM THE SAFETY EXECUTIVE TASK GROUP**

A report by the Task Group was received and in particular, the following items were noted:

- i. The Group has met four times since the last Health and Safety Committee.
- ii. In response to a request from the new HSE Inspector, HSS is drafting a University Health and Safety Action Plan. The Plan will include continual improvement and benchmark measurements.
- iii. Work is ongoing to identify health and safety 'ownership' of Centrally Timetabled areas. This will ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities so that condition is monitored and remedial action taken where necessary.
- iv. Further promotion of the Non Smoking Policy and 5-Metre Rule is planned for the start of the next semester and a small Working Group has been established to lead on this area and look into the greater issues.

### 353. POLICY STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL

A summary of the 'Policy Standard on Use of X-Ray Sets' was given. A discussion ensued, raising the following points:

- i. Page 2, Policy Statement: The legal emphasis of the opening statement should reflect the newly revised Health and Safety Policy Statement.
- ii. Page 3, General: Punctuation of 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph to be revised.

Further to the above amendments, the Policy Standard was **approved** and will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

It was further noted that additional information is needed regarding the safe de-commissioning of X-ray Sets and additional clarification on the Ethics Approval process required.

### 354. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The background to the production of the revised Health and Safety Policy and additional sections inserted following consultation were highlighted. The Committee discussed the Policy and noted that an amendment was required in relation to Ref 1.0.1 and 1.0.5(i).

The Committee was asked to approve the revised University Health and Safety Policy. Following due consideration and subject to agreed minor changes, the Health and Safety Policy **was approved** for consideration and approval by Council.

It was further noted that revisions to the Policy may be required when the Students' Union is recognised as an 'organisation' in its own right and is not formally a Department of the University. This will be considered when the legal position is made clear.

### 355. THE ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

An overview of the Annual Health and Safety Report was provided and in particular it was noted that:

- a) Statistical trends continued to be relatively positive.
- b) An improving picture of staff health is developing through a better understanding of sickness absence causations and as a result of the on-going staff Health Checks.
- c) The challenges which lay ahead for health and safety in light of impending financial pressures may necessitate a greater emphasis on ensuing risk impacts are identified and managed and this must be done alongside the development and implementation of an Action Plan which has been requested by the Health and Safety Executive of all public sector employers in North Wales..

The report was welcomed and in particularly the Chair asked the Committee for its views on *The Challenges Ahead*. The following points were noted:

- i. It was emphasised that 'financial cutbacks' must not adversely affect the health and safety of staff and students.
- ii. Sustaining good health and safety standards is now even more critical since a greater number of Research Grant Awarding Bodies request Institutional health and safety performance data.

- iii. Increasing job insecurity could cause elevated stress amongst staff, many of whom are already under significant amounts of work pressure.

**356. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chair announced his intention to retire and noted this was to be his last Health and Safety Committee meeting. A new chairperson will be identified and nominated by Nominations Committee of Council.

Chairpersons of the following Sub-Committees are now also required:

- i. Radiation Health and Safety Sub-Committee
- ii. Chemistry and Biological Health and Safety Sub-Committee.

**357. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the work of the Chair and the Deputy Registrar on behalf of the Registrar formally thanked the Chair for his dedication and skill in supporting the Health and Safety Committee and promoting health and safety over many years.

These sentiments were echoed by all members of the Committee.