

**UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 4, 2004**

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Carolyn Elfland, Steve Lofgren (for Christopher Payne), John Olsen, Peter Reinhardt, Michael Rolleri, Leslie Strohm, Marie Zeldin

Members Absent: Laurie Charest, Lester Kwock, Derek Poarch, Mike Rolleri, Bruce Runberg, Gene Scarborough, Nancy Sutfenfield, Tony Waldrop

Guests: Ray Hackney, Brian Eggert

1. Peer Institution Benchmarking

Pete Reinhardt, Director of Environment, Health and Safety, presented benchmarking information from the Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA). Of particular note, reported work-related illnesses and injuries have dropped 20% and lost workdays have dropped 50% in the last 3 years. The University's workers' compensation costs are 0.2% of gross payroll, compared to between 0.7% for public university peers and 1.0% for research university peers. Progress has been made in sprinklering residence halls, with the percentage sprinklered increasing from 13% to 35%, in line with peer institutions. Sprinklering is continuing as part of the comprehensive residence hall renovation program. The University has 100% compliance with the OSHA requirement for laboratory safety plans, and ranks well ahead of its peers in compliance with various safety training requirements.

2. West Nile Virus Action Plan

Peter Reinhardt presented information on West Nile virus and a proposed West Nile Virus Action Plan. West Nile virus is a mosquito borne disease that, while mild in most people, has caused an increasing number of deaths. EHS has developed a West Nile virus action plan for the University that focuses on prevention, both protection from mosquito bites and reducing mosquito numbers. Departments with employees working outdoors are required to provide mosquito repellent. Sources of standing water that will not subside in 3 days will be drained, or integrated pest management techniques and/or larvicides will be used to prevent mosquito breeding in areas that cannot be drained. The University's policy of not using surface retention or perpetually wet areas for stormwater management reduces breeding areas. Educational materials will be distributed to employees via the web and other means.

3. Norovirus Update

Peter Reinhardt presented an update on the recent Norovirus outbreak. Quick action to provide appropriate personal protective equipment to housekeepers, and provide prevention information to the campus community limited the extent of the outbreak. A debriefing session including all campus departments and external agencies assisting in the response recognized that the University has capabilities that could have been used to advantage. For example, a norovirus researcher on campus isolated the virus in samples 5 days before the certified laboratory, and the Carolina Dining Service computer system could have identified the presence of infected students at dining facilities by day and hour much more quickly than was accomplished via the questionnaire process. These capabilities will be used in the case of future outbreaks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.