

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting on 9 May 2011**

**Present:** Mr Dick Melly (in the Chair); Ms Bronwen Bernard (Secretary); Mr Hugh Jones; Ms Sally Townsend; Mr Michael Dick; Mr John Wadsworth; Mr David Mabb; Mr Terry O'Rourke.

**In attendance:** Mrs Mary Bright; Mr Steve Collins; Mr Graham Gaskell; Mr Terry Weller; Mr Bruce Ormiston.

**Apologies for absence:** Mr Manoj Kerai.

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**1. MINUTES**

Resolved:  
that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2011 be approved.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**(i) Draft Health and Wellbeing Policy  
(Minute 2(i), 24 January 2011 refers)**

Noted:  
that the draft Policy has been tabled for discussion at the next meeting of the Human Resources Committee, and that a meeting will be convened to consult with Trade Union representatives on the Policy.

**(ii) Survey of staff wellbeing  
(Minute 2(ii), 24 January 2011 refers)**

Noted:  
that following the survey findings, a Leadership Training Program is being launched at the end of May, to include a 360 degree review for Senior Managers based on the HSE's stress management standards. There is also an ongoing Leadership Program aimed at middle management grade staff.

**(ii) Fire Wardens**  
**(Minute 6, 24 January 2011 refers)**

Noted:

that In the event of a fire alarm sounding, the role of Departmental fire wardens is to check and clear their search area before exiting the building in the event of a fire alarm sounding. All building occupants should exit the building on hearing the fire alarm and not wait to be told to do so.

Meanwhile, the role of Security is to enter the building to check the cause of the alarm activation. If an actual fire is indicated or if a check cannot be carried out in less than five minutes, Security will call the Fire Brigade. If the alarm is caused by a fault or accidental or malicious activation, Security will reset the fire alarm panel and give the all-clear to re-enter the building.

Resolved:

that the Head of Health and Safety will notify the Registrar and Secretary of areas that are still lacking fire warden nominations from Departments.

**(iii) Condition of building at 288 New Cross Road**  
**(Minute 11, 24 January 2011 refers)**

Noted:

that the Estates Department will be carrying out repairs to the floor in the lobby and upgrading fire stop doors, and that this work is due to commence as soon as the student art shows have finished in the building.

**3. HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE DELIVERY PLAN 2011-12**

Received:

A report from the Head of Health and Safety on the enforcement authority's work priorities, inspection regime and funding arrangements; and the impact of these on the Higher Education Sector (11-167)

Noted:

That the HSE will no longer be making proactive visits to HE premises, but that they will investigate following a serious accident or complaint of a serious breach in standards. HSE will also be targeting construction refurbishment works during 2011-12. Inspection visits will continue to be made by other enforcement bodies such as Fire Brigade and Environmental Health Officers. From April 2012, employers will be charged fees for any HSE visits, investigations and enforcement actions taken against them.

Resolved:

That a list of higher risk areas, such as workshops, science laboratories, darkrooms and some studios, be agreed by the Senior Management Team, and that the Head of Health and Safety will make two-yearly inspections of higher risk areas and report the results and recommendations to SMT.

#### **4. GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION**

Received:

a report from the Head of Health and Safety on Government reform of health and safety regulations (11-168).

Noted:

that a Government review panel will report in autumn 2011 to examine, amongst other issues: the scope for abolishing or consolidating regulations; lessons from health and safety regimes in other countries; and evidence of inappropriate litigation and compensation arising from health and safety legislation. This review will not cover the Health and Safety at Work Act, other health and safety Acts, or regulations dealing with fire, product and transport safety, or Working Time requirements.

#### **5. FIRST PROSECUTION UNDER THE CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER ACT**

Received:

A report from the Head of Health and Safety on the first prosecution of an employer under the Corporate manslaughter Act 2008 (11-169).

Noted:

that under this Act, a company or organisation could be prosecuted without proof that a specific senior manager or "controlling mind" had been negligent. There is no upper limit to the fine and sentencing guidelines suggest a starting point of £500,000 for a death caused by a gross breach of a duty of care owed to the deceased by the organisation.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted:

That the dates of meetings in 2011-12 are: Monday 17 October 2011; Monday 30 January 2012; and Monday 14 May 2012. Meetings start at 14.30 and will be held in Deptford Town Hall.