

May 14, 1985

LPC Safety Committee

Branko Blazicevic	Cat. Records	4995
* Gresham Bradley	Knowledge Network	224-6511
Liora Gelbart	Cat. Products	4192
Shirley Graystone	Biosciences Data Centre	3487
* Shirley Marcus	Centre for Human Settlement	5254
R Betty Misewich	Cat. Records	2149
* Miriam Nechemia	FEPA	5002
Nick Omelusik (chair)	Cat. Products	4783
Karen Shaw	Cat. Records	5478
R Dorothy Slade	Audio-Visual	4773

* indicates absence at meeting

R indicates absence with regrets

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, May 14, 1985.

Karen told the committee that Dorothy Slade from Audio-Visual Services, the representative from the Third floor, was resigning from UBC. No one knew who would be the new third floor member.

Nick reminded us that the April meeting was cancelled because it lacked quorum. He requested that the minutes of March 12 be corrected to show that Miriam Nechemia was present. The minutes were adopted as amended.

A. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES1. Fire Extinguishers

Nick reported that proper labels which stuck to the fire extinguishers had been found. Soon all liquid extinguishers will have labels which read, "Do not use on electrical fires".

When drawing up the list of fire extinguishers, Nick and Karen realized two chemical extinguishers were missing -- one by the mail room door on Floor 1, the other near the southeast exit of Floor 4. These have been replaced by the UEL Fire Department.

At that time, Lt. Elliott told Karen that Richard Laurie of the Fire Dept. offers demonstrations of fire extinguishers. When Nick presented this offer to the committee, Liora suggested that several sessions be held to accomodate vacation schedules. Nick stated representatives from various areas of LPC should be included at the demonstrations.

+ Karen will make the arrangements with the Fire Department.

2. Fire Safety Plan

Nick and Karen prepared the Fire Safety Plan for the library portion of LPC. This included emergency instructions plus a list of escape routes and fire equipment. Because copies were previously distributed to committee members, opportunity was given for comments at the meeting.

- + Nick asked Shirley Graystone to complete the list of escape routes and fire equipment for the Fourth floor.

Copies of the present Fire Safety Plan will be distributed to Division heads and Floor wardens. Nick will wait for the Third and Fourth floor lists before submitting the Plan to the Fire Department.

3. Meeting of the University Safety Committee Chairpersons

Nick pointed out a few items in his previously distributed report. The major campus problems deal with chemicals and exploding fridges. The item concerning smoking in open areas will be placed on the agenda for their next meeting.

4. Temperature in Room 21

Because a portable heater has been placed near the desks in Room 21, the problem is partially resolved. The cold temperature is still a problem as the people move around to work in remoter places of the large room.

5. Floor 4

Miriam previously reported to Nick that a few changes had been made on Floor 4.

Shirley announced that Bob Black had unlocked the sick room. Because there is presently no furniture in there, Shirley is working with Mrs. Schofield in Purchasing to obtain suitable furniture.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Air Conditioning Problems

Numerous complaints, 6 in writing, have been received recently regarding cold temperatures, draughts, and stale, dry air.

Karen related what she recently learned about the heating system. It is either completely ON or completely OFF -- no in-betweens. When it clicks on, unheated air (approximately 50° F., 10° C.) is forced through the vents for 5-10 minutes. When the heater is ready, air heated to more than 110° F. (44° C. +) is pumped through until a compromise of 70-72° F. (22° C.) is registered on the thermostats. The result? There are people who sit in draughts of extreme temperatures all day who are unable to benefit from "balanced" temperatures!

She understood that Physical Plant staff has been instructed to change nothing, only to maintain things as they are. Too many complaints are not well received at Physical Plant as they are an indication that something is not working -- something that needs fixing, adjusting, or CHANGING. If Physical Plant were to make CHANGES to our air conditioning system, this action could be seen as a reflection on those who designed, chose or installed the system. Physical Plant does not want to ruin someone's reputation by re-doing the work.

Karen felt the extreme temperatures easily explained the reports of chills, colds, earaches, headaches, colds in muscles and poor resistance. She added that it seemed Physical Plant wanted us to bear with them -- at our own cost (health, production, etc.) -- while those responsible for the conditions were free to repeat the same mistakes. She recommended that the committee reconsider Branko's suggestion that deflectors be installed.

When Shirley commented on the lack of fresh air in the stairwells, she was told that Fire Regulations prevented air circulation there. Branko noticed improvements in the southwest stairwell since some trucks are no longer letting their motors run. He asked Nick to remind Physical Plant trucks to shut their engines off.

Liora suggested the thermostats be set at a constant 69° F.

- + Nick agreed to write Physical Plant about the deflectors, trucks and our air conditioner problems. He will send copies of the written complaints to them as well.

2. Staff Room

Branko pointed out that the exhaust fan and the upholstered chairs in the Second Floor staff room needed cleaning.

- + Nick will notify Physical Plant concerning the fan. He will consult Bob MacDonald about the chairs.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 11, 1985, 2 p.m.