

UNSW Level 1 Occupational Health and Safety Committee Meeting

Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee Meeting

3 October 2007

MATTERS FOR NOTING

1. Matters Arising from 2007 WorkCover OHS Audit

WorkCover NSW conducted an audit of UNSW's OHS Management System in July this year. The audit was conducted across three sites: UNSW Lifestyle Centre, the School of Computer Science & Engineering and Tigger's Place Childcare Centre. While WorkCover found that relevant OHS systems were in place at the audit sites and the system is generally robust, they identified some areas for improvement. In early August a corrective action plan was submitted to WorkCover addressing those areas.

The final audit report was received from WorkCover on 11 September 2007. WorkCover confirmed that UNSW is performing at a level acceptable for it to retain its license as a self-insurer for workers' compensation on a three year audit cycle.

2. OHS Data Reporting

Attachment A sets out key OHS statistics in relation to lost time injury frequency rates and types of claims. A more comprehensive set of University wide data will be provided on a regular basis at future meetings with a view to ultimately making available to Deans and Divisional Heads accurate data on OHS statistics for their faculty/division on a quarterly basis.

3. Strategic Review of Safety Culture for UNSW

The key message emerging from the OHS data is that OHS programs and initiatives have delivered some performance improvements over time as reflected in reduced claims costs. However, consistent performance improvement has not been achieved and there is concern that the predominant culture is not actively engaged in relation to OHS. Consequently the Chief Operating Officer has endorsed a proposal by an external consultant, Noel Arnold & Associates, for them to conduct a review and make recommendations as to how UNSW might transform the current safety culture and move beyond the current performance plateau.

Noel Arnold & Associates will conduct the review by the end of the first quarter 2008. The Project Director has been asked to give a short presentation on the review's aims and methodology at the next VCAC Level 1 Committee meeting.

4. Significant Incidents:

Morven Brown Building - Possible Cancer Cluster

The University has engaged an Epidemiologist, Dr Tim Driscoll, to investigate a possible cluster of cancer cases at the Morven Brown Building. Dr Driscoll has facilitated the setting up of a Steering Committee within the Faculty comprising staff and management representatives. In conjunction with the Steering Committee, Dr Driscoll is in the process of finalising the precise terms of reference for the investigation and is scheduled to hold another Faculty wide forum in mid-October to endorse formally how the investigation will

unfold. Dr Driscoll has also started the process of getting ethics clearance for the investigation.

Student Death – Anzac Parade

On 25 July 2007 an international student was struck by a bus while attempting to cross Anzac Parade. Injuries sustained by the student were extensive and her family made the decision to turn off life support some days after the accident. UNSW, Randwick Council and Sydney Buses support a proposal to review the pedestrian control measures in place on Anzac Parade and have recommended that barrier fencing be erected to focus pedestrian access at the crossing. The decision about the type and implementation of pedestrian control currently sits with the RTA as a Special Project.

5. Matters Arising from Level 2 and 3 OHS Committee meetings

The establishment of VCAC as the University's Level 1 OHS Committee has raised the question of how the various Level 2 and 3 committees raise issues with the Level 1 Committee. It is recommended that such committees raise Faculty of Divisional issues through the relevant Dean/Divisional Head who may determine whether to resolve the matter directly or raise it with the Level 1 Committee. University-wide OHS matters may be raised with either Human Resources or the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.

6. Implementation of Revised OHS Management System

The Vice-Chancellor wrote to his direct reports in June 2007 to advise them that progress in implementing the University's revised OHS Management System was a key KPT for them and would make up part of the end of year 2007 performance review. OHS staff in Human Resources should be working with Deans and Divisional Heads to assist in reporting on implementation for the calendar year 2007. A template document has been prepared for this purpose.

It is anticipated that full implementation of the revised OHS management system should have occurred in each Faculty and Division by December 2008. The next Level 1 OHS Committee meeting provides a good opportunity for Deans and Divisional Heads to raise any implementation issues

7. Next Meeting

VCAC will re-convene as the University's Level 1 OHS Committee on 28 November 2007.

David Ward
Acting Director Human Resources

Peter Graham
Chief Operating Officer