

# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

**DATE:** November 14, 2007

**ATTENDEES:** James Ellis, Dan Farrell, Ken McCabe, Steve Marginson, Dennis Melander, Shelly Olausen, Edna O'Neill Mattson, Mary Pecchia, Dick Robinson, Kevin Salisbury, Manny Terezakis, Christie Totten, Kathleen Twining, Kim Ward

## **NOTES:**

### **Item 1. Security update**

Dean Marginson spoke of the Security upgrades done on each campus in the wake of the Virginia Tech Tragedy. A consultant was brought in to host an exercise that simulated a bomb scare and it was well attended by the local municipal police and fire, representatives from EMA as well as members of our Security and Safety dept. of CCRI. We have an Emergency Preparedness Plan in use which is being expanded and distributed throughout the college community. Copies are available in the Security Dept. Communication between the Security Dept at each campus and the Municipal police and fire in each city/town as well as the RI State Police have been improved through radios that have been purchased. Cell phone contact between the institution and the student population as a way of communication in the event of an emergency is another measure being explored. The realization that all people should be aware of their surroundings and be able to spot potential problems with students was discussed. Kathy Twining thought that maybe a student conduit could be on this committee to aid in that endeavor. Edna mentioned the Attorney General's program called the "Third Eye Program" might be something to pursue on campus. Jim Ellis said that more cameras in more locations are an option being looked at.

### **Item 2. Recycling on Campus**

Steve spoke of the program already underway on all campuses to reduce paper waste by recycling huge amounts of paper by both the recycling bins posted around the building as well as the new shredding bins which recycles the shredded material. The question has come up since there is a push to "Go Green" as to whether or not we can look into the recycling of bottles and cans. Mary Pecchia will look into the costs, etc. of bins to be brought on campus to hold these

items. She will bring the findings of logistics back to the Dean and the facilities folks. Once it is determined whether or not we are able to launch a recycle program she will contact Dennis in PR to get the word out that this effort is being put forward. Mary mentioned that a few folks have offered to put together a "Green Team". There are pros and cons to the recycling of these materials and all input will be considered.

### **Item 3. Updates from Manny**

Manny Terezakis attended a Fire Safety Seminar and came back with a lot of ideas on how to improve the safety of the college with regards to fire hazards. One of the ideas he obtained at the seminar was to appoint Fire Marshals who are trained to look for fire hazards. These folks would be trained to prevent fires as well. Recently, three out of four of our campuses were inspected by the State Fire Marshals office and have since been reinspected as we have corrected all of the deficiencies that were found. An inspection of the Newport campus will take place in the near future.

The college has closed the Print Shop at the Flanagan Campus and there were quite a few hazardous chemicals as well as leaking containers that have been cleaned out and cleaned up.

Hazardous waste pick-ups are done five times a year on campus and Manny announces these dates. Departments that have items to be disposed of should contact Manny for the pick-ups.

There has always been an issue with the formaldehyde smell on the corridors that have the Biology and Chemistry labs on them. Manny monitors and tests these labs on an ongoing basis and the tests always come back as being within the limits of the acceptable amount.

There are radon tests scheduled to be done on all four campuses. We have always tested below the EPA action level at all campuses in the past.

### **Item 4. Open Items**

With the new outbreak of flu and health related issues, the thought was mentioned to add hand sanitizer dispensers to the inside of restrooms as well as other spots around the building. It was determined that the restrooms would probably not be necessary but that we could look into other locations if need be.

There was mention of the kitchen help serving food without gloves on or handling food with the gloves they had on that were used to handle money at the cash register. The Dean will contact the food service folks and reinforce the food handling procedures.

Kim Ward mentioned a mold issue that may exist at the Liston Campus. Some of it has been remedied and Manny will meet with Kim to check the rest of it out.

The Great American Smoke too place at each campus on November 15<sup>th</sup> through the efforts of Joann Jacobs in the Respiratory Department.

Christie mentioned a few items:

Mold on the second floor doorway near the elevator in Newport. Ken will check it out tomorrow.

The Air quality at the Knight Campus in the Bio area – Complaints are made about it being dry and stuffy. The Dean said that the area has always been problematic and humidifiers and filters are checked and cleaned on a regular basis. The structural design of that side of the building is an issue with ventilation and we will check the area out to be sure that there are no blockages in those vents, etc.

Smoking outside the door in Newport has become an issue and Jimmy Ellis will check on that.

The Dean asked Christie to meet with Manny to discuss the Biology Department issues.

Christie mentioned a third floor fire alarm horn that goes off right above the English secretary's head at the Knight Campus. The alarm, however, must remain in that location to best serve that area of the building.