

Overview

4.03.01 OHS Working Group 6 facilitates the implementation and ongoing continuous improvement of workplace health and safety throughout the following:

Department	Building
Vice-Chancellor's Office	S11
Legal office	S11
Secretariat	S11
Planning and Institutional research	C34
Office of Advancement	C33
Records Management Office	C33
Research Services	C33
International Office	C33
English Language Centre	E21
Risk & Internal Audit	C34
Human Resource Services (including Equity, OD &OHS)	C33
Financial Services excluding Yarm Gwanga, & Medical Centre	C33
Marketing and Public Affairs	S9
Student Recruitment	C33
Media Public Relations	S9
Relationship Management and UNE Foundation	C33
Student Admin and Support	C37
Student Assist	C37
Ooralala	E19
TLC	C30
Sport UNE	S31,S32,S33

Terms of Reference

Name of the Group: Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Working Group 6 - hereafter referred to as "the Working Group".

Reports to: OHS Strategic Committee - hereafter referred to as "the Committee".

Composition of the Working Group

4.03.01 The Working Group will consist of:

- (a) A minimum of five and a maximum of fifteen members. The employee OHS Representatives must be elected by and from staff that are represented by the Working Group. The provision of fifteen members allows for the attendance of OHS Unit and other specialist staff, secretarial assistance and management representatives (if any).

4.03.02 OHS Representatives will hold office for a period of two years, and may be re-elected.

To ensure continuity, elected members would normally be elected for a two-year term, with half the elected members retiring each year.

4.03.03 After the composition of the Work Group has been established, the OHS unit will publish the members' names on the OHS web site.

Elections

4.03.04 All employees within the Schools represented by the Working Group are eligible to stand for election.

4.03.05 Elections will be held every two years, and each member will be elected for a two year term. At each election, all Representatives who have served for two years (including any Representatives appointed to fill a casual vacancy for a person who would have served for two years) will be required to vacate their position on the Working Group and such positions will be opened to election.

4.03.06 Candidates can either nominate themselves or be nominated by another staff member represented by that Working Group. In both cases, they must sign a nomination form.

4.03.07 If more than the required number of nominations is received, then a postal ballot will be conducted among the staff members of the Working Group. The method of election will be by a "first past the post" system of voting.

- 4.03.08** Where the required number of nominations are not received, the Working Group may co-opt additional staff by invitation and will consider – (1) gender balance, - (2) HEO level (3) the geographical working location of the staff member.
- 4.03.09** In the event of a casual or permanent vacancy occurring, the Working Group may co-opt a representative to fill that vacancy until the next election.

Training of OHS Representatives

- 4.03.10** All OHS Representatives must complete an appropriate accredited Committee Training Course in accordance with Clauses 31 and 32 of the Occupational Health Safety Regulation 2001.
- 4.03.11** The training of new OHS Representatives will take place as soon as possible after their election or appointment to the Working Group.
- 4.03.12** Any OHS Representative attending a training course in accordance with the provisions as laid down in Clause 31 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 shall be entitled to the appropriate rate of pay, travel allowance and subsistence.

Role of the Working Group

- 4.03.13** The Working Group will:
- (a)** Hold regular meetings to look at issues which have arisen.
 - (b)** Appoint a representative to the OHS Strategic Committee.
 - (c)** Conduct regular workplace inspections and report to the appropriate supervisor any deficiencies in health and safety matters for action.
 - (d)** Attempt to resolve OHS issues in accordance with the Policy for Resolving OHS Issues.
 - (e)** Provide general information and assistance to all staff within the Working Group on OHS matters.
 - (f)** Discuss workplace health and safety matters in general and make recommendations of workplace health and safety systems to the Committee.

Meetings

- 4.03.14** The Working Group will meet at least quarterly, and at least three weeks before each next scheduled OHS Strategic Committee Meeting.

- 4.03.15** The date, time and place will be decided by mutual agreement between members of the Working Group.
- 4.03.16** The meeting's Agenda will include:
- (a)** A list of those present.
 - (b)** Apologies for absences.
 - (c)** Business arising from the previous meeting.
 - (d)** Verbal report of OHS issues since the previous meeting.
 - (e)** Review of OHS policies, reports or correspondence.
 - (f)** Items of General Business, the decision of the meeting, and the appropriate action to be taken.
 - (g)** Venue for next meeting.
 - (h)** Conduct workplace inspections.

Appointing an OHS Representative to the OHS Strategic Committee

- 4.03.17** The OHS Working Group will appoint a representative to the OHS Strategic Committee by consensus within the Working Group. If agreement cannot be reached by members of the Working Group, the matter will be referred to the OHS Strategic Committee, which will make a decision, taking into account gender balance, and the balance of General and Academic staff on the Committee.

Workplace Inspections

- 4.03.18** The Working Group will conduct Workplace Inspections and or Audits as it deems as appropriate, e.g. the Group might carry out one School inspection per meeting. This will be determined by the inherent level of risk of the activities, or the recorded injuries that have occurred.
- 4.03.19** In order to conduct an inspection, where required, the Working Group will be entitled to the appropriate rate of pay, travel allowance and subsistence.
- 4.03.20** Inspections/audits will be conducted through the following procedure:
- 1.** The Working Group will contact the appropriate supervisor and arrange a mutually agreeable time to enable that supervisor and at least two OHS Representatives to conduct a walk through inspection of the workplace.

2. The Working Group may discuss OHS matters with staff within the Directorate/Unit.
3. The OHS Representatives will record any OHS deficiencies identified and provide a copy to the relevant Supervisor and the OHS Officer within one week of the inspection.
4. The Supervisor must consider the OHS deficiencies in consultation with the relevant staff, and respond to the Working Group within two weeks.
5. A copy of the completed Inspection/Audit will then be provided to the OHS Strategic Committee for review.

Resolving OHS Issues

- 4.03.21** In the event of strong conflicting views in the workplace on how an OHS matter should be managed, an OHS Representative, may become involved to assist in the resolution of the issue, in accordance with the University Policy for Resolving OHS Issues. The Representative will keep a record of the matter and inform the other OHS representatives at the next scheduled Working Group meeting, for their information/discussion.

Provide general information and assistance to all staff within the Working Group on OHS matters

- 4.03.22** OHS Representatives will be permitted reasonable time to discuss and provide assistance to staff that they represent on OHS matters, and may refer the matter to the next scheduled Working Group meeting for discussion.

Discuss workplace health and safety matters in general and make recommendations of workplace health and safety systems to the Committee

- 4.03.23** Any documentation which the Working Group wishes to have considered by the Committee, must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven working days prior to any Committee meeting, for it to be able to be included in the Agenda of that meeting.

Ratification of the Terms of Reference

- 4.03.24** These Terms of Reference will be submitted in writing to the OHS Strategic Committee by the Working Group's representative to the Committee. The Terms of Reference will need to be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the Committee.
- 4.03.25** The Terms of Reference must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven working days prior to any Committee meeting, for it to be able to be included in the Agenda of that meeting.

Amendments to the Terms of Reference

- 4.03.26** Any changes to the Terms of Reference will be developed by consensus of the Working Group and then submitted, in writing, to the Secretary to the Committee at least seven working days prior to any Committee meeting, for it to be able to be included in the Agenda of that meeting.

Further Information

Occupational Health and Safety Unit (ext. 3232)

References

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001

WorkCover Code of Practice: OHS Consultation

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