

WCSU Physical Working Conditions Committee
End of Year Report 2007-2008

The Working Conditions committee met the first Monday of each month throughout the school year (with the exception of January).

Highlights of the year:

Chairperson elected: Joan Palladino

Members: Charles Rocca, David Skora, Pete Algarin, Michelle Ramey, Mike Ercoli, Margaret Cicalese, Lisa Peck and student representative Denise Morelli

Luigi Marcone updated the committee on WCSU's recycling campaign.

The working conditions committee received multiple complaints pertaining to the stairs in White Hall. These complaints and the concern for safety were passed along to maintenance by Joan Palladino.

The committee continued to receive numerous complaints pertaining to snow and ice. It was felt that many times conditions on campus were dangerous.

There were many reports of the dangers of walking from the parking garage to White Hall. This was reported to Roger Connor who stated that they were looking into a cross walk. The committee will follow-up on this.

In December, the committee considered bringing these items to the Senate because they felt there were no answers, but there were still unsafe conditions. Dan Costello met with Joan Palladino in December; then Mr. Costello and Luigi Marcone met with the Physical Working Conditions Committee in March and explained the process for working on the problems. According to Mr. Costello, the stairs in White Hall will be addressed, although funding is an issue. It was assured to the committee that this was a top priority. The methods used for removal of snow and ice were explained and how the decision is made about whether to cancel school. Mr. Costello stated that if someone falls it should be reported to Health Services and the police. If someone sees unsafe conditions it should also be reported to maintenance. The area around the buildings is shoveled by the custodians for the building. The walkways in between are done by a machine used by the grounds crew. There will be some ice on the ground but the area is also sanded.

Last year the Working Conditions Committee clarified for the WCSU community the proper communication pathway to facilitate how repair work should be requested. The procedure is to email "Request Maintenance," stating location and nature of the issue before bringing unresolved issues to the committee. The committee decided that any

complaint that is brought to the committee, without first contacting “request maintenance”, will be referred back to the individual to follow proper procedure.

Higgins Hall has been an ongoing problem with loose tile, leaking ceilings and missing ceiling tiles. There is also a rodent problem in Higgins that has been treated in the past and maintenance continues to address the issue.

The Physical Working Conditions Committee expressed what they believed were the priority areas of the Strategic Plan for Facilities. Joan Palladino, Chair, is a member of that committee. The following are the priorities, as stated by the Working Conditions Committee listed in order:

After discussion, the Committee reached a unanimous decision to prioritize the initiatives as follows: 4 – 5 – 2 – 1 – 3 and 6. Joan Palladino will submit this list of suggestions to the Facility Strategic Plan Committee on Wednesday.

- 4) Improve university image and internal communication with respect to facilities.
- 5) Develop efficient process for identification and execution of facility and infrastructure requirements.
- 2) Establish space utilization framework and implement. Clarify who approves assignments.
- 1) Establish operational and service standards and guidelines.
- 3) Develop more integrated/joint planning, particularly with academic affairs.
- 6) Implement Master Plan.

This priority list was reported to the Strategic Planning Committee for Facilities by Joan Palladino.

Last meeting will be held on May 5th with new members present and election of a new chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Palladino