

University Safety Policy - (update)

The University is committed to minimising risk to the health and safety of employees, students, visitors and the community to the lowest level practicable and to preventing accidents and ill health arising in our activities - *in so far as is reasonably practicable* (AFARP).

To this end the University is committed to discharging our common law duties to employees, students and visitors and to discharging our statutory duties to employees and occupants of our premises arising under the SHWW Act/ subordinate regulations and the Fire Services Act - (*current editions*).

Under Irish SHWW law and related UCC safety policy, the University President and Governing Body have ultimate responsibility for occupational health and safety at UCC.

Overall responsibility for managing and conducting occupational health and safety within all of the functional areas/entities that comprise UCC as an undertaking/an employer rests with the President as Chief Officer. This responsibility is in turn delegated to and shared by the UMTO, UMTS and each senior head of academic or administrative function, directors of unattached institutes and all executive managers in the various schools/departments, institutes and centres.

All delegated responsibilities are clearly set out under UCC safety policies and in school and departmental safety statements. The detailed policies, guidance w.r.t. required operating standards of safety are in place and have been widely disseminated. Details on health and safety systems and policies at UCC are available at: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/occupationalhealthandsafety/> and <http://www.ucc.ie/en/occupationalhealthandsafety/policies/>. These clearly set out all that each head of function and executive manager need to adhere to in order to achieve compliance, assess risks, eliminate, minimise and manage risk in an acceptable fashion. (AFARP).

Each of the senior executive (Heads of Functional Area – both academic and administrative) and Heads of School/ Department and the managers of same are responsible and accountable for:

- *Proactively managing and conducting occupational health and safety in the areas and activities under their control. (legal duty)*
- Achieving compliance with University safety policy and the extensive SHWW regulations that govern their work and that of the University employees under their control.
- Ensuring, subject to the '*in so far as is reasonably practicable* (AFARP) test' defined in the SHWW Act (*current edition*), the safety, health and welfare of University employees at work at their various places of work both on and off the University campus.

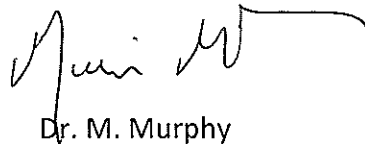
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- Providing adequate financial and other resources for the above – *in so far as is reasonably practicable*.

These duties also extend *AFARP*, to protecting 3rd parties from the impact of work conducted by University employees. Similar obligations arise for ensuring the adequacy of fire safety standards in all of the University's buildings so as to be fit for purpose and the day to day management of same, in order to protect the various users, at all times, from any potential outbreak of fire (Fire Services Act 1981/2003).

In order to minimise accidents and ill health to employees, students and visitors and to minimise loss or damage to UCC property and the environment, this responsibility must be continuously discharged by all managers with the co-operation of every employee and student at UCC.

Staff selected safety representatives and all persons who discharge statutory advisory protective and protective safety roles on behalf of the University must also be afforded the full co-operation of every person at UCC at all times.



Dr. M. Murphy

President

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Footnote:

- 1) The SHWW Act applies to all places where employees conduct their work on behalf of UCC – including urban, rural and marine locations external to UCC. (Areas that UCC may not control).
- 2) Irish safety law includes an extensive tablet of regulations enacted under the Principal Act.
- 3) Students undergoing a course of study at UCC are not deemed employees of the University under the provisions of SHWW law.
- 4) **Reasonably Practicable Definition – SHWW Act 2005.** *In so far as is reasonably practicable* (AFARP) means “that an employer has exercised All Due Care by putting in place the necessary protective and preventive measures, having identified the hazards and assessed the risks to safety and health likely to result in accidents or injury to health at the place of work concerned and where the putting in place of any further measures is grossly disproportionate having regard to the unusual, unforeseeable and exceptional nature of any circumstance or occurrence that may result in an accident at work or injury to health at the place of work.”