RISK MANAGEMENT AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1. The preservation and security of people and property are important to the functioning of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and to the achievement of its objectives.

2. The University commits itself to the provision of a safe and healthy working environment as far as is reasonably practicable. Moreover, it considers it important to conserve all of its resources through efficiency in the work place.

3. The University is therefore committed to a dynamic and comprehensive programme of occupational safety, occupational health, risk management and loss prevention in order to eliminate or minimize those incidents which cause injuries, illness, damage to premises and equipment, fires, explosions and any other losses.

4. It is believed that identification with the programme and personal involvement and commitment at all levels within the University are essential for success and that the effort to promote and maintain a safe and healthy environment is worthwhile.

It is therefore the personal responsibility of each individual, whatever his or her position, to identify with the University’s declared philosophy of safety of life and the preservation of property, to recognize and to report actual or anticipated risks and wherever appropriate, to take immediate action to avoid or reduce these risks. By doing this, the University will achieve not only the fundamental aims of the programme but also improve the quality of life for all employees, for students and the community.

In order to achieve the goals of the RISK MANAGEMENT AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY, the following will apply:

4.1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH will rest with all staff for the persons and areas under their control, whether in a supervisory position or not.

4.2 Safety Health and Environment (SHE) COMMITTEES will be established in terms of Section 19 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, No 85 of 1993 to concentrate the combined efforts of all safety, health and environment representatives to reduce work accidents and to ensure a healthy working environment.

4.3 STAFF will be appointed in terms of Section 17 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, No 85 of 1993 and in terms of Section 6 of the General Administration Regulations of 2003 to co-ordinate all occupational safety and occupational health activities.

4.4 SAFETY RULES will be formulated to cover work procedures in specific areas.
4.5 SAFETY TRAINING will form part of an on-going programme. The training needs will be determined by the SHE Committees in each area as approved by the requisite body.

4.6 FIRST AID FACILITIES will be adequately provided and first aid training arranged for those in charge of these facilities.

4.7 SAFETY EQUIPMENT will be provided and used for hazardous work.

4.8 SUGGESTIONS to avoid dangerous acts and conditions will be sought and considered from all employees.

4.9 INTEREST IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT among all staff will be stimulated through the use of training courses, posters and publications.

4.10 MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY will be expected to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others affected by their acts or omissions. They will also be expected to co-ordinate / operate fully within the law with the SHE Representatives and committees in the implementation of health and safety measures.

4.11 Further policies will detail specific aspects of the implementation.