



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday, Apr. 29 2020, meeting 1:15pm to 2:30pm, ZOOM virtual meeting

Start time: 1:21pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: John Ciriello. Seconded: Cleusa De Oliveira. Passed.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (Feb. 26th)

Motion: Cleusa De Oliveira.

Comment from Rob that a few details were missed (mention of domestic violence training, Ontario human rights codes for emotional support animals, power plant testing group, accident report details and request for membership of COVID-19 working group). Rob will send amendments to Matt for incorporation.

Motion to approve minutes after comments incorporated: Cleusa De Oliveira. Second: Tim Goldhawk. Passed.

3. Business arising from previous meeting

3.1 COVID-19 update

(M.Mills)

Matt – we are closely working with Middlesex-London Health Unit to develop a self-assessment questionnaire that staff and students must fill in before returning to campus. It's a way for us to pre-screen for symptoms of COVID-19. We're also working to produce signage on best practices (stay home if sick, hand hygiene, etc.).

Operations leaders are meeting weekly to discuss current state and return to campus planning.

Western is offering a total of 190 beds at Perth Hall & Windermere Manor to health care workers during this pandemic. This is for health care workers that would rather have a place to stay rather than returning to families, etc. A great way for us to support our front line workers that are working back-to-back shifts. We also donated 250 mattresses to help set up the temporary field hospital located at Western Fair (in partnership with LHSC).

520 Lab inspections were completed prior to the campus closure- that included checking that the labs are tidy, fume hoods are closed, and all x-ray laser equipment is turned off or put in standby mode. Also, we brought RPR Environmental to dispose of hazardous waste.

Within the Faculty of Science, 160 labs were inspected. For the most part, chemicals were stored appropriately, labs tidy, fume hoods empty and closed. X-Ray & Laser equipment turned off or put in standby mode. Plan in place to monitor gases and critical equipment (MRI, Imaging Devices, Accelerators, etc.) Within Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, 209 labs were inspected. PI's took extra care to secure cell lines and biological agents. Work counters left clean and wiped down with disinfecting agents. Deep freezers properly locked up and secured. Some general clutter and improperly stored haz waste (all dealt with asap). Particular issue at RRI; excessive qty of haz biological waste – lab techs should've taken their own waste to the autoclave room. Within the Faculty of Engineering 92 labs were inspected. Special thanks to Mike Gaylard for assisting with corrective action in a number of labs. X-ray / Laser equipment turned off / put in standby – plan to monitor gases (imaging devices). Some poor chemical storage, housekeeping and unsecured cylinders, overall labs in good condition.

Many students in residences chose to leave early. For some students with visa issues etc., Western is offering summer housing in London Hall and Essex Hall. Food production is being centralized.

All summer conferences and externally booked activities on campus have been cancelled or postponed.

Western created an employee support website for staff members working from home. This includes a quick reference guide on how to set up an office for proper ergonomics. Link is https://www.uwo.ca/hr/spec_resources.html

Comments/ Questions:

John- I've received emails with concerns from members in terms of what will happen in September. One of the suggestions was to have a campus wide testing for COVID-19 on top of the self-assessment questionnaire Western is thinking about.

Matt- I understand the concerns because some people who become infected never show any symptoms. We are trying to see what is possible for September - this is an ongoing discussion right now. We continue to take our direction from Public Health.

Rob- How are animal care members doing with PPE?

Matt- For PPE, we have been monitoring supplies. We are required to report out on a weekly basis to the Government of Ontario in terms of what PPE we have (e.g. N95 masks).

Chris- We do not know when we'll be opening the campus yet- we continue to monitor government orders to open up.

Thomas- For Perth Hall, do we have to take a special caution when working in the building?

Chris- We are doing extra cleaning in the area, but we don't work in the individual rooms. Wear normal PPE. These health care workers who are staying at the Perth Hall are not isolating- they are staying because they do not want to bring virus home or want to rest between back-to-back shifts.

3.2 Powerplant – roof work

(T.Stein / B.Wakefield)

Bryan provided updates on roof accessing. Continued to work on air dispersion emission summary model. Data collection is done. Bryan will provide third party contacts to Thomas and Stephen. 2016 emission summary dispersion report was provided, and the chemical use data will be updated on the report.

We are doing monthly chiller PMs. Got a final approval for adding water redundancy to CL3 lab, which means we will be using north chiller plant to provide secondary source of water. This is more energy efficient and prevents a risk of shutting down CL3 labs in summer when outside temperature and humidity are high.

No additional comments from Thomas.

Comments/Questions:

Thomas - For redundancy project approval, do you have ETA for the completion to that?

Bryan – Not at the moment, the team is working through that. They are focusing on designing the heat exchange.

4. Review and Assess Trends

(M.Mills)

4.1. Accident/Injury Report

Committee reviewed February and March reports (posted in OWL).

Reviewed Accident/Incident Report

February – Lost Time Accidents were 2:

Kinesiology – left wrist – critical accident – employee cutting across open space by AHB – fell down slope as grass was covered by ice. Investigation completed and follow-up visit from MOL. No orders issued. Area caution-taped off.

University Police – employee slipped / stretched – causing in pain in right leg/groin area. Was exiting police vehicle at Lawson Hall.

March – Lost Time Accidents were 2:

WTS – employee had some breathing issues when working in inventory room. Employee was exposed to some dust. Safety completed investigation. Employee provided appropriate PPE.

FM – Ontario Hall – Elevator #2 – employee had sudden pain in back. Returning to shift from lunch break. No definitive root cause. Employee has had history of similar pain in the past.

4.2. Workplace Inspections: Trend Data, Schedule

Future workplace inspections are on hold pending return to campus. Matt proposed that he update the annual inspection list to include the significant lab inspection work that occurred prior to campus moving to core services model.

John – concurred that this seems reasonable. Agreement from the committee that some of these buildings or areas could have spot audits performed throughout the remainder of 2020.

4.3. Work Refusals

None

4.4. Critical Injuries

None

4.5. Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC

None

4.6. Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168) (J.C.Aubin)

None. Matt shared info about online domestic violence training courses (MIOB - Make It Our Business) with members. They offered a first online training last Friday, and there will be another online training on May 14th, as well as future dates. If anyone interested, Matt can provide more detailed information.

5. New Business

(M.Mills)

5.1 Policy & Procedure updates for approval

Matt shared updated policy and procedures documents with members on OWL. The following were discussed:

- a) Policy 3.1- Health and Safety Policy
- b) Policy 1.11- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- c) Policy 1.31- Hazardous Chemical Waste Policy

- d) Policy 1.34- Storage and Dispensing of Flammable and Combustible Liquids in Laboratories

Committee discussed suggested changes and made some additional recommendations. Rob Harbottle agreed to send some additional suggested changes to Matt after the meeting. Matt agreed to take these suggestions back to the Safety Team and Lab Safety Committee.

5.2 JOHSC membership – Cindi Talbot is beginning a secondment within Facilities Management and will be stepping aside from the committee effective immediately. An alternate SAGE rep has not yet been identified. Thank you to Cindi on behalf of the entire committee for her service and wish her well in her new role!

6. Adjournment

2019-2020 Meeting Dates

2019: September 11, October 16, November 27
2020: January 15, February 26, April 29, May 20, July 8

Motion: Chris Second: Cleusa. Passed.

End time: 2:45 pm

Worker Representatives

Cindy Morton-Cesarone , CUPE2692

John Ciriello, UWOFA

Felix Lee, UWOFA

Thomas Stein, IUOE

Stephen Crowe, IUOE Alternate

Tim Goldhawk, PMA

Gurpreet Dhani, PMA Alternate

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361

Barry Fletcher, CUPE Alternate

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

Rob Harbottle UWOSA

Cindi Talbot, SAGE

Siddharth Gupta, PSAC

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

Employer Representatives

Chris Bumbacco

Barry Russell

Mike Gaylard

Bryan Wakefield

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Matt Mills

Jean-Claude Aubin

Gina Choi