



## Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, meeting 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm, ZOOM virtual meeting

### Minutes

Start Time: 3:05 pm

**1. Approval of the Agenda** – Motion from Rob. All in favour. Carried.

**2. Approval of Minutes** from previous full meeting (**June 29<sup>th</sup> 2021**) – Motion from Rob. All in favour. Carried.

**3. Business** arising from previous meeting

#### 3.1 COVID-19 Update

Matt provided an update via Zoom. Shared his computer screen to review a PowerPoint that included:

- MLHU local case numbers & Dashboard  
Reviewed Provincial case numbers, Reproductive Number (1.16), and 7 day average (702 new cases); the number of cases continues rising, but number of hospitalizations due to COVID is not high compared to last year because of vaccination.
- Reviewed what employees need to know before returning to campus. The education/awareness training modules regarding Return to Campus and vaccination will be available on OWL. The vaccination education module aims to educate people on benefits of vaccination. The main message is to stay home if feeling unwell.
- Reviewed the vaccination rates; about 58,000 email were sent out to all Western students, faculty, and staff. About 31,000 members responded the survey; the survey found that about 30,000 members are fully vaccinated, 600 members are waiting for the second dose, and 373 members (nearly 1%) are not vaccinated yet. The reminder email will be sent out until Sept 7<sup>th</sup> to encourage people to complete the survey and increase vaccination rates.
- In terms of masks and eye protection, Western requires the use of 3 layer of non-medical masks. For the employees working with close proximity to food serving, they are still required to wear eye protection (safety glasses, face shield or goggles) in addition to a mask.
- On-site Vaccination & Testing Centre operation hours are extended, as students start moving to residences on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact tracing method has been changed based on vaccination rates. Building Safety Leads & Ambassadors program provides reminders about physical distancing, the use of face coverings, and good hygiene practices.

Peter asked about whether to continue following lab entry protocols. Matt commented that there is no contact tracing regulation or expectation for now from the Health Unit. Sign-up sheet & personal records would be the best practice in case of events, but it is not required this year.

#### 3.2 University Policy updates

Discussed in New Business.

**4. Review and Assess Trends**

##### 4.1. Accident/Injury Report

(F. Al Jallad)

For Jan- July 2021, 102 incidents in total (First Aid: 63, Lost Time: 21, Health Care: 18).

6 First Aid incidents (Physical Plant: 4, Food Services: 1, Medicine: 1).

4.2. Workplace Inspections (K. Pollard)  
For June 1<sup>st</sup>- Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, 26 inspections are completed (217 items for compliance issued, 55 open items for resolution). Issues like improper electrical uses (overloading a power bar), incomplete labelling on materials, and incomplete or undocumented safety station were often found. Compliance order details were shared and posted on OWL.

4.3. Work Refusals (K. Pollard)  
None to report.

4.4. Critical Injuries (F. Al Jallad)  
None to report.

4.5. Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC (All)  
None to report.

4.6. Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168) (J.C Aubin)  
None to report.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1 Campus Reopening

#### a. Vaccination Policy and Procedures

Matt shared that a session was delivered to highlight the new COVID-19 vaccination policy. Originally, Western provided the options for either providing proof of vaccination or getting rapid testing. Now, the requirement is that all members of the community must be vaccinated by Sept 7 and Oct 12 unless they have medical exemption or human right exemption that is provided by Western (in that case, rapid testing twice per seven-day required). International students who do not have Health Canada approved vaccine will be able to get their shots at Western.

#### b. Wastewater Testing

Bryan shared his computer screen to review a PowerPoint that included: Wastewater testing started last fall with Dr Chris DeGroot (Engineering) & Dr Eric Arts (Schulich) using the ImPaKT Facility and external consulting agency (AOS). The wastewater samples were collected from the nine different residence buildings bi-weekly and analyzed at ImPaKT. The sample point was indicated on the 10 different manholes. For Ontario Hall, there are West, Middle, and East parts, but the sample was collected from the common sample point.

#### c. Ventilation Systems

Matt shared ventilation analysis results in classrooms. This is also available on the Western FM website. Based on Harvard research, 6 ACH or more is considered as ideal, and 3 ACH or less is considered as low. The analysis found that 96 % of classrooms are at ideal or excellent ratings.

Felix commented that the ventilation analysis result for one of the biggest classrooms (North Campus Building 101) seems a little low, 5 ACH, compared to other classrooms. Matt commented that 5 ACH is still considered as excellent based on the Harvard study, as it was done based on heating and ventilation standard which required bare minimum in a range of 3-4 ACH. Bryan also commented that the volume of the classrooms and ceiling height are the factors for calculating a classroom volume which means that air change are expected to be lower when

classroom volumes and ceiling height are high.

**6. Adjournment**

End Time: 3:47 pm

Motion from Peter. Second from Rob. Carried.

**Upcoming 2021-2022 Meeting Dates**

2021:

September 1, October 6, November 10, December 15

2022:

January 26, March 9, April 13, May 25, June 29

\*Meeting attendees in **bold**

**Worker Representatives**

Cindy Morton-Cesarone, CUPE2692

**Peter Chidiac, UWOFA**

**Felix Lee, UWOFA**

**Lewis Pellar, IUOE**

Stephen Crowe, IUOE Alternate

Lesley Oliver, PMA

**Gurpreet Dhani, PMA Alternate**

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361

Barry Fletcher, CUPE Alternate

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

**Rob Harbottle UWOSA**

Krysta Hart, SAGE

Reza Bahreini, PSAC

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

**Employer Representatives**

**Chris Bumbacco**

Mike Gaylard

**Bryan Wakefield**

**Jeff Bruyca**

**Resources**

Jane O'Brien

**Matt Mills**

**Jean-Claude Aubin**

**Fadi Al Jallad**

**Kyle Pollard**

**Guest**

**Anne Marie McCusker**