



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday March 11th , 2026, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Location – Support Services Building 4220

MINUTES

Start Time: 2:01 pm

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (January 21st , 2026)

- Approved.

4. Business arising from previous meeting.

4.1 Campus Updates

- Director, Health Safety and Well-Being (HSW) updated the committee on campus activities.
- Director, HSW, advised the committee related to site visits from Public Health Agency of Canada and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission in March 2026
- Director, HSW reported on laboratory safety initiatives including fume hood system maintenance, there are updated requirements in the fire code that came into effect in 2026.
- Assessments of areas with compressed gas cylinders in laboratory areas are underway to align with fire code changes.
- Winter Wellness week was hosted by Employee Well-being and featured an open house of the Living Well Activities Room.
- A number of incidents were reported for Slips, Trips and Falls. Winter weather and surface conditions were a contributing factor. Over Exertion and strain reports also feature in reports. Adequate breaks and task rotation were some measures used to reduce the risks related to strain injury.
- Food Services is piloting new worksite inspection checklists for use in WorkSafe@Western.
- Director, HSW reported to the committee on workplace incident investigation updates related to potential asbestos exposure.

4.1 Risk and Controls Matrix

- Health Safety and Well-Being (HSW) updated the committee on risk and control matrix initiative.
- Ergonomic risks are included in the risk registry and job demands are part of planned administrative controls. Hazard communication forms should be reviewed by supervisors and shared with workers at the start of their position.

If hazards change, updates to this information should be captured and recommunicated. This does not happen consistently in all cases and is noted as an area of improvement.

- The risk and control matrix will be shared with the committee on a quarterly basis.

5. Review and Assess Trends

5.1 Accident/Injury Report

- Reported incidents 2026, 96 incidents have been reported on campus: 57 First Aid related incidents, 12 Lost Time related incidents, 21 Health Care related incidents and 4 Near miss/Hazard reports.
- The committee reviewed reported incidents that occurred in January and February 2026.
- Committee discussion on winter operations. Weather and surface conditions were noted to be contributing factors in multiple reported incidents. Director, Facilities Operations advised committee of expected service levels for snow clearing.
- Planned review of locations of reported winter hazard areas and outdoor incidents to assist with future maintenance planning.
- Monthly incident numbers were compared to incident data from previous years (2024 and 2025) to identify any potential trends for further investigation.
- Section 52 notices were reviewed.

5.2 Critical injuries

- 1 critical injury reported.

5.3 Workplace Inspections

- A report Inspections completed inspections was presented to the committee.
- Inspections completed in the Faculty of Science, Western Libraries, Western Research Institutes and Visual Arts.
- Reportable Items
 - 36 items remain open for completion

5.4 Work Refusals

- None to report.

5.5 Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC

- None to report.

5.6 Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168)

- None to report.

6. New Business

6.1 Allergy Guideline

- Occupational Health Physician has drafted an allergy guideline for committee

- review
- Some potential updated information for inclusion in the guideline was discussed.

7. Adjournment

End Time: 2:52 pm

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2026- Apr 22nd, Jun 9th

Worker Representatives (Attendees in bold)

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

Christina Blancher, CUPE 2692

Christopher Yates, CUPE 2361

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361

David Caldorone, CUPE 2692 (Alternate)

Felix Lee, UWOPA

George Dugbartey, PSAC 610

Gurpreet Dhani, PMA

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

Lesley Oliver, PMA (Alternate)

Lewis Pellar, IUOE

Mike Parker, UWOSA

Peter Chidiac, UWOPA

Stephen Crowe, IUOE (Alternate)

Employer Representatives

Bryan Wakefield

Craig Clifford

Chris Bumbacco

Mike Gaylard

Robert Thompson

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Jean-Claude Aubin

Kyle Pollard

Louise Koza

Guest

Vignesh Chakravarthy

Sonya Malone