

**JOINT CUPE 951/UNIVERSITY
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday, March 9, 2023, 11:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

Present:

Worker Representatives:

Amy Issel (Co-Chair) *
Nykita Downie
Heidi Neeves
Colin Newell

Employer Representatives:

Lynn Meyers (Co-Chair) **
Fiona Puszka
Penny Waterman

Ex-Officio:

Andy Mavretic, OHSE

* Chair meetings (2023)

** Take minutes (2023)

Regrets:

Chris Smith

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

2.1 Approval of Agenda

- The agenda was approved with the following 2 additions for New Business:
 - 951 Co-Chair needed - Amy is stepping down
 - Inclement weather, campus closure, and facilities

2.2 Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2023 meeting

- The minutes were approved as circulated with one correction, as follows:
 - correction to the adjournment time (from pm) to am.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Local Safety Committee Update – OHSE

Andy provided the following update:

- Nothing new to report
- The Local Safety Committees are working on annual evaluations, which will be discussed here at next meeting, as well as at next USC.
- OHS&E announcement - one of the long serving OHS&E consultants, Gavin St. Michael, is taking early retirement at the end of this month after 30+ years of a good career. Gavin is responsible for a number of Safety Committees so OHS&E do a shuffle to reassign these as of April 1st.



3.2 Personal Safety Coordinator/CSEC update

Fiona provided the following update:

- There have been a couple unfortunate bike thefts – one involved bike parts being stolen (lots of lights get stolen). These bike parts are easily removed, so a reminder to do so if you can.
- Campus Security will have a couple of table displays to promote, and encourage sign up, with the bike [529 app](#).
- March is a very busy time of year for Campus Security with lots of reports/calls about persons of concern – several homeless people around the campus, and transient individuals seeking warmth around buildings and the bus loop – these calls are appreciated and encouraged. Also receive calls about wellness and mental health issues with this being a stressful time for students and staff.

3.4 University Safety Committee Update

Amy provided the following update:

- Last month's USC meeting did not meet quorum; therefore, those agenda items will move to this month's agenda at the end of March.
- Andy confirmed there was no quorum, and added a short update more so about COVID:
 - As COVID-specific related things are winding down, University Communications will be looking at the main website to do a full review of content that exists on COVID to streamline and review for what is still current.
 - OHS&E will still have, and will continue as long as needed, COVID-specific information on the [OHS&E website](#) but that information will transform into the [Communicable Disease Safety Plan](#).
 - As well, the COVID-related door signage, that is everywhere on campus, has been up for awhile so there is discussion about considering removing that particular type of signage and have Digi caster reminders instead depending on the time of year (e.g. flu season) for relevancy. There still might be some signage in selective areas and more seasonal – these are more housekeeping issues OHS&E is paying attention to.

4. Incident Reports

4.1 Monthly CUPE 951 WorkSafeBC accidents/incidents – February 2023

Amy provided the following summary on the one item on the report:

- Amy attended the incident investigation; the meeting went well. A CUPE 951 member slipped and fell on black ice after getting off the bus on February 14th. This incident has been approved for time loss.

5. New Business

5.1 CUPE Local 951 Co-Chair role

- Amy reported that she is sadly stepping down as Co-Chair of the JOHS Committee as she has accepted a different executive role with the Local. Amy thanked everyone for allowing her the opportunity to serve as the Co-Chair.
- The Local will provide a replacement member for this committee, and the committee members will discuss and report back on who will take up the Co-Chair role.

5.2 Inclement weather, campus closure, and facilities

- Amy reported that there have been a couple of recent incidents of slipping and falling on black ice; including one yesterday (March 8th) that will be discussed at the next JOHSC meeting, and 951 members are coming forward with concerns. Amy enquired about the process for this committee to request USC, or somebody somewhere, review the procedures for de-icing and clearing of snow; specifically, how do we bring forward what we discuss here as a recommendation for it to go to USC?
- Andy responded first on where to find information about inclement weather conditions, including snow and ice conditions. He reminded the committee of the [Snow or Extreme Weather page](#) on the [Emergency Planning website](#), and noted that this page is always being reviewed and modified, led by Rob Johns working closely with Facilities who do the work.
- Andy also noted that the [Snow or Extreme Weather page](#) provides **snow clearing maps**, which are displayed at the bottom of the page, that Facilities created a few years ago and regularly updates. The maps show the priority areas of clearing, including the SUB and bus loop, and when Facilities is being deployed, with the times, to clear and de-ice.
- While this topic does get discussed from time to time at USC, Andy indicated that the stats show there have been much fewer slips and falls as a result of the “weather and snow clearing” updates, including such safety measures as delayed starts and campus closures because those help to keep people away from campus so that Facilities can get the areas cleared, recognizing it will never be perfect because black ice can happen in a flash.
- Amy thanked Andy for this information and appreciates the plan/processes in place. The Union will be sure to continue directing members to this site.
- Andy then responded to Amy’s enquiry on how to bring this to USC. He suggested that if the Co-Chairs want to know more about what is being done, we can draft an email, including any specific questions or issues we want addressed. Whether it will be Leigh Anderson or Rob Johns who will review the current processes, Andy can bring our enquiry forward for addition to the USC agenda, keeping in mind the agenda will be quite full because the February meeting was missed last meeting.



- **Action:** Amy will review with Lynn and get back to Andy.
- Amy added that the Union received a lot of feedback on the delayed start due to the weather, and thought that approach was amazing, but added that employees got no warning prior to the announcement, so that will be included in the email

6. Adjournment

Lynn noted that she will be away for the April meeting so she will arrange for another Employer Rep to take the meeting notes in her absence.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. (*via Zoom*)

