JOINT CUPE 951/UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Joint CUPE 951/University Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on-line via Bluejeans at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday May 7, 2020

Present:

Worker Representatives:  Employer Representatives:  Committee Resources:
Pat Shade *  Lynn Meyers  Gavin St. Michael
Christine Currie  Chris Smith
Kara White  Fiona Puszka

* Chair of Meeting

Regrets:

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

2.1. The agenda was approved. (no additions)
2.2. The minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were approved.

3. Business Arising

3.1. Local Safety Committee update

Gavin reported that a few committees have been meeting via online through Bluejeans, such as Food Services and the Library. Other committees will be starting to meet again as well.

3.2. University Safety Committee update (Pat and Fiona a

Pat reported that he and Fiona attended the last meeting on April 28th, chaired by Kane. Kane provided the following updates:

- There will be no easing up of health and safety measures in the foreseeable future.
- Classes have been moved to on-line. It’s expected there will be some face-to-face classes but if those are not working, the University will return to all on-line if necessary.
- There will be a joint announcement from all the research universities coming out this week, providing a coordinated approach to what a return will look like, and only if approved by the Minister of Health.
- Also brought up was the new ‘Learn Anywhere’ app.
- Research was shut down until further notice.
- Pat noted that he had heard from Kirk Mercer, CUPE 951 President, that the University is looking for ways to reintroduce Research.
- Signage is being developed.
- Any return direction will come from the Public Health Officer.
- There is someone from CUPE 917 showing symptoms but not yet tested.
- Rob Johns reminded attendees to download the UVic Safety app.
- New U-Watch Program – 2-person teams wearing high visibility vest. Participation is voluntary. Shifts are from 4:00 pm to midnight. It provides an extra set of eyes on campus. Teams are not to take any action – they simply call in any suspicious activity to Campus Security to take action.

3.3. Personal Safety Coordinator update

Fiona reported the following:
- Campus Security continues to get quite a few transients on campus, and it is particularly on a rise right now compared to this time last year; e.g. January-April 2019 reported 35 suspicious activity checks, while this year there have over 140 checks for January-April. Certainly the U-Watch program has been very helpful.
- U-Watch has been in place for a couple of weeks now and, as Pat reported, it is voluntary. Groups of 2 members walk around campus between 4:00 to midnight. They are not going into buildings, they are simply to have a look around campus and report any suspicious activities to Campus Security.
- Fiona noted that sometimes positive pressure changes in a building when there is lack of activity/occupancy in the building, causing the door not to latch properly, so people should double-check to ensure proper closure.
- New signage on front doors of building, from Security, reminding employees to carry their ID, such as the OneCard. Security will ask to see the ID if they don’t know who you are.
- Campus Alone Program – encouraging everyone to check in with Security Dispatch when working alone in a building.
- Residence reported it is down to 50 students remaining in residence, and they will probably be here for awhile, due in part to travel restrictions.
- COVID FAQs are great – encouraged everyone to have look at them.

Kara noted that she hasn’t noticed the signage for carrying ID. Fiona noted that it is brand new signage this week, and only on the front doors of building. It is helpful because Campus Security has some new hires who might not recognize everyone, so carrying ID or the OneCard is important.

Kara noted concern with the location of the door signage for Science Stores. The front door of the building is not what is accessed, especially with there being more labs that are now
active – there were 8 active labs before and now it is up to almost 20 and Kara anticipates that number expanding, including in Chemistry. Fiona will share that update with Keith Cascon and Tom Downie.

4. Incident Reports

4.1. Monthly CUPE 951 WorkSafeBC accidents/incidents

Gavin noted that there were no incidents in March and April.

5. New Business

5.1. COVID-19

Gavin provided some basic information on this topic.
- The EOC is daily, and the Logistics committee is meeting twice per week as is the Hygiene sub-committee.
- Looking at a gradual resumption on campus, including with Research. There are lots of question marks so stay tuned because UVic will have more announcements including safety measures, e.g. hand sanitizers, etc. All that is still getting worked out in the EOC meetings.
- The FAQs website is updated daily so some of these larger announcements, like on-campus and research work being gradually resumed, will be there so be sure to check it regularly.

Kara noted that Science Stores has a large supply of hand sanitizer liquid but are not sure what do we do with it. Gavin advised that is his order, which will be used for the stand-along pump stations that are being purchased for placement around campus.

Kara noted that Science Stores staff were told yesterday to get washable masks. Gavin provided direction on the use of masks, which are only to be used as a last resort where departments are unable to physical distancing requirements. The masks are not sanctioned by the University as a PPE requirement for everyone. Kara noted concern in her work environment at the time when all 5 staff are back to working together and the amount of traffic that comes into Stores for orders.

Chris reported that the Library has started getting back on campus this week on a gradual basis 3 days per week for now (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday).

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:55
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 4, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. via Bluejeans

- Pat asked that Amy be added to the Bluejeans invite for the next meeting – Gavin will take that action.
- Kara noted that it is very difficult to do Bluejeans from work because there is no privacy in Science Stores so she will reply as “tentative” for now.