



MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Time: 2:30p.m.

Place: online

| Present | Present | Regrets |
|---|--|---|
| Ori Granot, PEA | Keith Cascon, CSEC Manager | Greg Melnechuk, CUPE 4163 |
| Cliff Haman, PEA (<i>alternate</i>) | Rob Johns, Emergency Planning Manager | Fiona Puszka, Personal Safety Coordinator |
| Eric Segec, CUPE 917 | Darryl Huculak, FGMT Health & Safety Coordinator | |
| Pat Shade, CUPE 951 | Ben McAllister, Manager Risk & Insurance | |
| Terri Lacourse, Faculty Association | Andy Mavretic, OHSE Director | |
| Kane Kilbey, AVP Human Resources (<i>Chair</i>) | Elizabeth Errington, OHSE Admin. Coordinator | |
| Leigh Andersen, FGMT Director | | |

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda. *Carried.*

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes from May 25, 2021. *Carried.*

3. Business Arising

a. COVID-19 campus updates

Kane summarized the [Step 3 of BC's Restart Plan](#), which comes into effect July 1. The university will continue to follow direction from the provincial health officer and WorkSafeBC. Updated Return to Campus Guidance will also be available very soon. July and August will be a transition time on campus as we gradually increase activities while also beginning to ease public health restrictions. An outline of UVic's return to campus plan is available on the [main UVic COVID website](#).

Andy is working on a campus-wide [communicable disease \(CD\) plan following the guidance from WorkSafeBC](#). The CD plan will replace all the safe work plans (SWP). A transitional safety guidance document is also underway. In the interim, all existing safety measures should continue to be followed on campus and in SWPs.

Pat raised some questions regarding occupancy limits this fall as well as the status of the classroom ambassador program. Andy noted that spaces/facilities will be able to operate at usual occupancy levels and that units can plan for the return to their normal occupancy limits. Kane advised the ambassador program will conclude at the end of the summer term as most staff will be returning to their usual jobs on campus. The Welcome Centre is planning to create a small team of ambassadors to support the orientation and return of students to campus.

Kane confirmed the letter from the Faculty Association (FA) regarding building ventilation with be addressed as a comprehensive assessment and update is pending from FGMT, and also provided updates to questions raised from Terri at the last meeting (see attached Appendix). Kane further confirmed that faculty and students will be required to follow the guidance in place for [daily health self-assessments](#). Island Health will continue to lead notifications and contact tracing for

and positive COVID tests. They follow strict guidelines to protect the privacy of an ill person. Terri recommends UVic administration be very explicit in their response to the letter from the FA.

4. New Business

a. Consultation: Confined Spaces

Darryl provided an overview of the confined spaces across campus. He plans on conducting a full review of the confined space inventory in the near future. Meetings with the Saanich and Oak Bay fire departments are underway as the agreement with them to provide emergency rescue services expires at the end of this year. The fire departments recently held their emergency egress drills on campus in lot 10.

5. Emergency Planning Update (EP)

Rob advised the committee that the Emergency Alert system was used Sunday evening to alert the campus community about the closure on Monday, June 28 due to the extreme heat. Rob will be reviewing “learnings” about summer heat and poor air quality due to forest fires. He is working on fire safety planning with RESS as well as updating the fire safety plans for their buildings. Rob and Darryl have also held ammonia response training with ATRS. Rob is planning a cyber-incident planning session with SYST for what to do if a significant event were to occur.

6. PSC Update

Keith introduced [the new app for registering your bike](#) which will be available in September. The campus community is reminded to please close your windows at night. CSEC continues to respond to many calls. The PSC continues to assist the OSL with student conduct issues.

7. WorkSafeBC

a. May claims report

Elizabeth reviewed the updated report, which reflected 4 claims submitted to WSBC; 3 time loss and 1 health care.

b. New inspection reports - none

8. Other Business

Rob is working with Island Health on the possibility of a COVID-19 vaccination clinic to be set-up on campus. This site would be for anybody to utilize; not just students arriving from out of province/country. Discussions are also underway for when the COVID-19 testing site in parking lot 10 may be decommissioned.

Meeting adjourned 3:45pm. Next meeting Tuesday July 27, 2021.



APPENDIX to USC Minutes (June 29, 2021)

Responses to questions raised at May 25, 2021 USC meeting:

1. Can faculty members require their students to wear a mask in their classrooms?

We have and will continue to follow the PHO's advice, WSBC requirements and the COVID-19 Return to Campus Guidelines for the post secondary sector concerning the role of masks for every stage of the pandemic and beyond. The BC Restart says that masks in public indoor settings will be a personal choice during Step 4. If this is the case, then it is the position of the university that this is a personal choice for each individual student and employee to make and not for instructors to make on behalf of other individuals.

Also, while it appears that there will not be a broad requirement to wear masks in the fall, there may be specific situations where wearing a mask is periodically necessary. These will be guided by public health advice in each situation. The video town hall is illuminating in this regard. Dr. Henry and Dr. Gustafson speak to situations where masks may be required in the future.

Controls: Will all students and staff wear mask on the campus? [15:49](#)

Finally, there is normally a role for masks, often medical grade masks, in some of our laboratory settings. These requirements existed pre-pandemic and will continue as required based on the regulatory requirements in that setting.

2. Can faculty members ask their students to leave if they are exhibiting symptoms in the classroom?

No. It is inappropriate to assume a student is sick with COVID-19 or any other illness because they are exhibiting symptoms. However, it is appropriate to inquire if the student is ok and if they have completed their daily health self-assessment. The university will also ensure that all students and employees are aware that by September, everyone will be personally responsible for a daily health self-assessment and following the guidance of the BC CDC in place at that time. It is expected that advice will be that people experiencing symptoms will stay home, consult the B.C. COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if COVID-19 testing is needed, and contact 811 or their healthcare provider for medical advice as necessary.

3. What is the proportion of buildings that have HVAC filters upgraded to MERV-13 versus those which are not?

The Provincial Health Officer has requested that the COVID-19 Return to Campus Guidelines include a requirement that university building heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems meet WorkSafeBC requirements and ASHRAE standards. As such, Facilities Management will be assessing building heating, ventilation and air conditioning ([HVAC systems](#)) ahead of the fall term to ensure those systems continue to meet WorkSafeBC requirements, and will also be taking extra steps to further improve indoor air quality, including upgrading filters to MERV-13 rating and increasing air flow. At present, FMGT is continuing their HVAC assessments and advises that the filter upgrade project will be completed ahead of September with greater than 90% of the primary filters in HVAC systems that recirculate air having a MERV 13 rating. Rest assured that in all areas where air is filtered, air quality will exceed WorkSafe BC requirements and ASHRAE standards as all HVAC systems will flush air prior to occupancy and at a higher filtration rate than is presently required during occupancy.

4. Will the faculty member be notified if there is a confirmed student case in their class?

As Rob responded at the May meeting, we have followed the lead of Island Health on case communication and contact tracing at every stage of the pandemic. It has also been our experience that students who have been sick have been following our [guidance](#) on the COVID-19 website and notifying their professors, who in turn notify the university in accordance with our document: *Guidance for professors and instructors – Student ill with COVID-19*. We will update this document and our website as necessary for the fall semester to ensure it is up to date with the most current public health guidance.

5. In general, how much autonomy will instructors have in their classrooms for the fall with respect to managing COVID-19 health and safety risks?

All faculty and staff are expected to follow institutional health and safety prevention measures which continue to be guided by public health and WorkSafeBC, and not introduce other or different measures in their work or learning areas.