University Safety Committee

MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022                  Time: 2:30p.m.                            Place: BEC 402

Present     Present                    Regrets/absences

1. Approval of the Agenda
   Motion: to approve the agenda. Carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes
   Motion: to approve the minutes from August 30, 2022. Approved

3. Business Arising
   a. COVID-19 update
      Rob reviewed the recent campus health and safety update that was sent to all staff and students on September 13. Digital signage continues with reminders on steps to help keep our campus safe. Door signage on core prevention measures continues to be posted at all building main entrances. Rob has been attending monthly meetings with the Island’s medical health officer. Going forward, these meetings will be scheduled on an as-needed basis. Rob reported that at this time, vaccination clinics will not be held on campus. Pharmacies will be the primary location for the delivery of booster vaccines as will some health clinics. Approximately 200 rapid test kits were given out to students during the week of wellness including the distribution of disposable masks.

      Kane and Andy continue to attend the provincial post-secondary institution meetings with public health. Kane noted the immunization strategy is aimed to be timed with the new bivalent vaccine from Moderna. Flu shots may be available to get at the same time. Vaccination clinics will be set-up for at-risk/marginalized, rural, and indigenous communities. Further information on data trends is available on the BC CDC website. Andy noted that although the federal requirement for international travelers to be vaccinated will be lifted, there are no restrictions to international students from accessing a vaccine in BC and the university will continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated. Terri noted she has had reports from various faculty that they are observing illness and/or covid going through classes. Eric suggested more communication be available about where disposable masks can be recycled on campus.

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   b. Refusal of unsafe work update
      Andy reviewed the update to the WSBC legislation, section 3.12, on the right to refuse unsafe work. The process for resolving an issue is unchanged in that it can involve up to three investigation steps, however, there is a new written notification requirement that a supervisor
must provide if they wish to reassign the duties to another worker while the issue is being investigated. Eric inquired about a specific work refusal issue at FMGT and described the actions taken to date to address the issue. Andy advised there are additional steps needed to complete the investigation process. Leigh indicated he will follow-up at the next FMGT safety committee meeting to ensure the issue is resolved per the WSBC work refusal process.

4. **New Business**
   a. **Consultation topic: working alone**
      Andy reviewed that working alone procedures are required for workers who are assigned/directed to work alone or in isolation. There are six specific groups on campus with working alone requirements and OHSE has confirmed that their processes have been updated or are under annual review. OHSE will be following up with units to assess the status of working alone procedures for research labs, as this information is not currently known across all departments in Sciences and Engineering. Andy noted working alone information is provided in lab safety training.

   Rob advised there is a new tsunami hazard map available. The Great BC Shake Out will take place on October 20 at 10:20 a.m. Rob has conducted the second fire drill for the new 8 story Building One which includes 398 rooms, full kitchen, and large dining area. The occupants did well and evacuation took 4 minutes and 47 seconds. The UVic SafetyApp was promoted at the week of wellness. It’s a great resource for accessing maps of campus and includes the “friend-walk” feature. Rob and the EP team continue to offer training sessions and have also done specific training with groups like the EOC, CSEC and UCOM.

6. **PSC Update**
   On behalf of Fiona, Rob reported that the beginning of the school year has gone well 😊

7. **WorkSafeBC**
   a. **August claims**
      Elizabeth reviewed the report which reflected 2 time loss claims with both employees now fully returned to work.
   
   b. **New inspection report - none**

8. **Other Business – none**

   *Meeting adjourned 3:25pm. Next meeting Tuesday October 25, 2022 in MWB 220*