



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday December 11th, 2024, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Location – Support Services Building 4205

MINUTES

Start Time: 2:02 pm

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (November 13th, 2024)

- Approved.

4. Business arising from previous meeting.

4.1 Campus Updates

- Director, Health Safety Well Being presented an update on campus activities
- Winter weather closed campus in early December
- Worksafe@Western will go live with our Radiation Safety Program in January 2025.
- An update to the license for Biological safety has been completed with Western and the Government Regulators related to Level 3 work.
- Updates on the use of funds from safety related grants included supporting the living well program for neurodiverse learners, de-escalation training for roles with client facing situations.
- A student group engaged with HSW related to sharps management in public spaces.
- The Asbestos Control program for Western is undergoing revision.

4.1 Action Plan Updates

- Director, Health Safety Well Being presented an updates on proposed action plan presented in the October 2024 JOHSC meeting.
- Updates to pedestrian safety, noise assessments, harassment, safety data sheets and labeling of hazardous products, and emergency station testing were discussed by the committee.
- An area on concern relate to traffic/pedestrian safety around construction sites was discussed in additional detail including the corrective actions used to improve conditions.

5. Review and Assess Trends

5.1 Accident/Injury Report

- As of the end of November 2024, 332 incidents have been reported on campus: 222 First Aid related incidents, 42 Lost Time related incidents, 47 Health Care related incidents and 21 Near miss/Hazard reports.
- The committee reviewed 43 incidents that occurred in November.
- Monthly incident rates were compared to historical data (3- and 5-year averages) for this month on campus.

5.2 Critical injuries

- 2 critical injuries were reported.
- Reports related to the injury were reviewed by the committee

5.3 Workplace Inspections

- A summary of inspections completed between November 13th 2024 and December 4th 2024 was made available to the committee.
- Reportable Items
 - 10 orders were issued for action by units from the recent inspection cycle.
 - Inspections occurred in the 15 buildings of campus within research and support units.
 - 15 action items are open in Worksafe@Western (as of Dec 9th 2024)
- Past due action items
 - 10 items are past due from previous inspection cycles.
 - Assignees for 2 past due items have been granted requested extensions to allow time to complete the item
 - Assignees for 6 past due items have completed the action and they items are pending finalization in WorkSafe@Western
 - Assignees for the remaining 2 past due items have communicated in progress status, they have been advised to submit extension requests.

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)

- WSCS reported one instance of harassment during the fall open house by a visitor to campus.

6. New Business

6.1 Respiratory Illness Season

- Occupation Health Physician provided an update to the committee on the respiratory illness season
- The peak time for respiratory illness is typically in Mid-January.
- A vaccination clinic was held in November 2024, over 3800 inoculations were completed at this event.
- Vaccinations are available at pharmacies and primary providers.
- Western has optimized internal ventilation systems.

- Stay home if you are sick, when you are well enough to return masking is advised for 10 days.
- Hand hygiene, covering a cough, and masking in close contact area are still encouraged practices to protect others and reduce the likelihood of illness.
- Masks, no longer supplied by Western, are available at pharmacies and other retailers.

6.2 Training Records

- Director, Health Safety and Well Being presented information of an audit of training records for completion of the University required training modules.
- Active employees in part-time or short term contract roles were the most likely to have gaps in completion of training and/or record keeping.
- Committee discussion on strategies to encourage completion of training requirements for employees.

6.3 Winter Operations

- Facilities Management presented information on winter operations planning.
- FM operations manager advised that 3 contract service providers, and 16 internal staff members share responsibilities relate to winter maintenance
- Committee discussion on reporting of hazardous conditions
- Multiple snow events occurred between December 2nd and 6th, which required clean up of exterior areas of campus
- Weather related closures occurred on December 5th and 6th to reduce the risks to members of the campus community.

6.4 Health Safety Excellence Program

- Health Safety and Well-Being provided an update on the WSIB-HESP.
- Communications related to update safety training modules and new programs were provided in the Western News on December 6th.
- Selected topics Slip Trip Fall – Prevention and Control of Hazard – Basic are being implemented as part the HSEP program.
- A plan-do-check-act cycle related to the implementation of these topics is being managed and reported by HSW
- The topic, Control of Hazard – Noise, was delayed in implementation and HSW is reviewing requirements of the program and the expected timeline for WSIB-HESP submission.

7. Adjournment

End Time: 3:07 pm

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2025- January 29th, March 12th, April 9th, May 7th, June 18th

Worker Representatives (Attendees in bold)

Andrew Flegel, CUPE 2361 (Alternate)

Alan Grainger, CUPE 2361

Caitlin Corcoran, UWOSA

Vacant, SAGE

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361 (Alternate)

Felix Lee, UWOFA

George Dugbartey, PSAC 610

Gurpreet Dhani, PMA

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

Lesley Oliver, PMA (Alternate)

Lewis Pellar, IUOE

Matthew Anderson, CUPE 2692 (Alternate)

Peter Chidiac, UWOFA

Sandy Paiva, CUPE 2692

Stephen Crowe, IUOE (Alternate)

Employer Representatives

Bryan Wakefield

Craig Clifford

Chris Bumbacco

Mike Gaylard

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Jean-Claude Aubin

Kyle Pollard

Louise Koza

Guest

Sonya Malone