



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday October 9th , 2024, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Location – Support Services Building 4205

MINUTES

Start Time: 2:01 pm

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (August 28th , 2024)

- Approved.

4. Business arising from previous meeting.

4.1 Campus Updates

- Director Health Safety and Employee Well-Being updated the committee of campus activities.
- A labour disruption started in late August 2024.
- Contingency plans for campus operation have been used. This included traffic route alterations.
- Noise related to the labour disruption was identified as a concern in some areas and this was evaluated and corrected.
- Conditions that could lead to incidents of workplace violence or harassment increase at times of disruption. Western is using internal policies and procedures if a member of the campus community needs to report this type of concern.
- Orientation week activities proceeded successfully, in some cases concerns related to noise were mitigated. Specifically, a fire truck pull was completed using a modified procedure.
- Control measures related to ergonomic hazards in animal care areas are working to reduce potential injuries.

5. Review and Assess Trends

5.1 Accident/Injury Report

- As of the end of September 2024, 260 incidents have been reported on campus: 174 First Aid related incidents, 33 Lost Time related incidents, 35 Health Care related incidents and 18 Near miss/Hazard reports.
- The committee reviewed 31 incidents that occurred in September.
- Monthly incident rates were compared to historical data (3- and 5-year averages) for this month on campus.

5.2 Critical injuries

- 3 critical injuries were reported.

5.3 Workplace Inspections

- A summary of inspections completed between August 28th 2024 and October 4th 2024 was made available to the committee.
- Reportable Items
 - 11 orders were issued for action by units from the recent inspection cycle.
 - Inspections occurred in the 7 buildings of campus within research and support units.
- Past due action items
 - 7 items are past due from previous inspections. 6 item past due items have had good communication with HSW on steps being taken to finalize the issues and time is being given to these units to provide updates. An Item with little or no communications and HSW has provided reports and information to leaders in the impacted areas to leverage required actions.

5.4 Work Refusals

- None to report.

5.5 Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC

- Emergency services contact using 911 from campus landlines.

5.6 Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168)

- One incident of harassment on campus was reported to the committee.

6. New Business

6.1 MLITSD Field Visits

- The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development attended Western for field visits on September 26th and October 7th 2024.
- Both visits were the result of a complaint at the ministry call centre.
- Activities for testing emergency showers and eyewash stations were investigated in several buildings on campus during the September site visit.
- Activities the training of people who use hazardous products for cleaning was the subject of the October site visit.
- Orders were issued to Western as a result of the investigations by the MLITSD.
- The Director HSW presented to the committee an action plan related to the investigations to comply with MLITSD orders with defined review periods to ensure that compliance is maintained.
- Committee discussion on use of internal responsibility system for correcting identified hazards and maintaining compliance

6.2 JOHSC Roles and Responsibilities

- JOHSC members are offered the opportunity to become certified. The process related to the requirements of this process were reviewed.

- HSW thanked committee representatives that support the workplace inspection programs and other committee duties.

6.3 Dental Clinics – Anesthesia use of Nitrous Oxide

- The dental program in the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry will be introducing anesthesia with Nitrous Oxide as part of their operations in November of 2024.
- As part of the risk assessment Western engaged a third-party consultant for industrial hygiene to measure the emissions in the mechanical rooms that service the dental clinic vacuum systems for a baseline level.
- Additional testing will be repeated in November when clinical activities introduce the use of Nitrous Oxide.

7. Adjournment

End Time: 3:19 pm

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2024 –November 13th, December 11th

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

Worker Representatives (Attendees in bold)

Andrew Flegel, CUPE 2361 (Alternate)

Caitlin Corcoran, UWOSA

Vacant, SAGE

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361

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

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