

**ACADIA UNIVERSITY  
JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

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**Meeting September 24, 2020 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Teams**

**Present (Quorum)**

Greg Deveau, Operations Supervisor  
& OHS Coordinator, Safety & Security  
Richard Johnson, Athletics  
Pat Mora, Business Office  
Ann Myers, SEIU, Library – Co-chair  
Eveline DeSchiffart, Acadia Divinity  
Caroliina Landry, OHS Nurse  
James Sanford, Co-Chair  
Brian Wilson, AUFA  
Aran Silmeryn, SEIU  
Patrick Difford, Director, Safety & Security  
Laura Miller, Chartwells  
Kathy Klein, Human Resources  
Mike Holmes, AUPAT  
Sandra Symonds, AUPAT  
Teri Gullon. AUFA  
Derek Parker, Physical Plant

**Regrets**

Marcel Falkenham, Director Facilities  
Derrick Hines, Chartwells  
Nancy McMullin, Physical Plant

1. **Call to order** – 1:33 p.m. by James Sanford. Ann Myers was secretary for this meeting).
2. **Approval of Minutes** - Minutes for April and May presented and moved by Ann Myers, seconded by Teri.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – First Aid added to New Business. Moved by Rick Johnson, seconded by Sandra Symonds.
4. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**
  - **Minutes to approve:** James will composed the minutes for August meeting..
  - **Naloxone kit distribution – Update** Greg has distributed two kits to the library.

**Campus COVID – Update** Caroliina Landry, OHS Nurse updated the committee with the COVID situation on campus in the following categories: **Asymptomatic testing** : 3200 students province-wide, approximately 9000 tests done and the Digital check-ins were at 90% compliance for students province-wide compared to approximately 50% for the population who travel into Atlantic Canada. Many groups involved in this testing and they included: Research

group led by Lisa Barrett; NSHA (infection control, frontline staff, peer swabbers, management, booking department (x 4 zones) and test sites x2 asymptomatic and 1 x symptomatic; Department of Health and Wellness/ Public Health: Labour and Advanced Education; Resident Life; Mobile units including NSHA staff and peer swabbers (for on campus students) and University Club moved to Festival Theatre and back to University Club (for off campus students). **Self-isolation** : this Went well considering the numbers and everyone received fresh air. There were a couple of mild health symptoms, but rest and hydration helped. One student broke a foot but is now fine. So far there is one who is self-isolating as directed by 811 and is awaiting a symptomatic swab. Caroliina stated that if a student is directed to self-isolate, call Safety and Security, so they can implement the resources to the student's residence (on or off campus if required). If it is an employee, call immediate supervisor to inform them they will not be physically on campus. In addition they need to notify their students if they have an in-class session or find an alternative form of teaching. There was an issue with 811 with students attempting to call them. Aliant informed them to stay on the line even if there is dead air, or if it is busy or a recording, hang up and dial again. **Pledge:** the COVID-19 Preparedness and Education Module on ACORN has been up and running for almost 2 weeks. After proactive prompting to students, to date, over 3800 students have completed it, so less than 450 students to go. It is now available to employees as well. Log into ACORN and click on enroll me. **Masks:** There are exemptions with exemption cards. Employees are encouraged to ask for the card, as students are required to carry them at all times. Any refusal to wear a mask or produce the card, would be forwarded to Safety and Security for follow-up. In regards to exceptions to wearing a face mask, the following apply: During lecturing, a professor may remove their mask, although a face shield would then be recommended (provided by Safety and Security). An exception was granted to the Psychotherapy department when they are performing their mock interviews (criteria to be met), as we had to balance learning with safety (*see attachment*). Still no valve masks or clear/mingle masks allowed as a face covering on campus. Medical masks are provided by the Occupational health nurse-COVID-19 specific, with an accompanying letter. After Caroliina's report, several committee members raised questions. Aran raised a question regarding removing their mask in the library to eat food. Greg stated that food should be discouraged in the library since it would necessitates taking the mask off. Richard stated that the Athletic Complex was good. There are 212 students registered in the centre and there will a new booking software available October 1<sup>st</sup>. Richard also mentioned that there is an ongoing discussion of the community accessing the facility. Derek stated that Physical Plant activities are going well and they are still adjusting the schedule for cleaning between classes. Laura said that the dining hall is going well – masks being worn, barriers and directional signage.

## 5. New Business

- **Sharps policy** There was a discussion on its status – no action since Chad was coordinator. Derek worked with Chad and will produce the policy which they worked on for next meeting.
- **Fit to learn/Fit to Work** Teri stated this program is fine to pass off until next year.
- **Policy & Website** deferred.

- **Muster Stations** Greg stated that there are some issues : signage, and there are some sections that have muster stations and some who do not.
  - **Working from Heights** Greg led the discussion concerning what is the policy for off campus group productions. Some questions arise: What is the policy and what is the certification required? Who should use the catwalk and who signoff on it?
  - **Priorities** The preceding topics in the New Business were discussed and assigned the following priority: 1. Sharps. 2. Working from Heights. 3. Muster Station. 4. Policy & Website. 5. Fit to Learn/Fit to Work.
  - **Administrative Support** Greg informed the committee that there would be a secretary for the minutes for the next three months.
  - **Tapping cards** Ann questioned to whether it is necessary to tap our ID cards at each station or just once when we arrive. Greg said that we should tap at each of the stations to give contact tracing a complete view of our activities in different parts of the building.
  - **First Aid** Rich asked when the next course will be. Greg did not have an answer yet but it will be online.
  - **Hurricane Teddy** we were fortunate. The grounds crew assessed and said it was good with a few leaks in BAC and the Student Centre. Pat asked if staff should call Security if there is water. Greg stated that Security would do a walkthrough and then call Physical Plant.
6. **Incident report** There was an incident where gasoline fumes were present in the School of Kinesiology. Odour strong, apparently coming from work on the elevator. It was closed for a day but is o.k. as of the day of this meeting.
7. **Summary of Actions and Results Timetable arising from Meeting:**
- Derek and Greg will follow-up with Sharps policy
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8. **Adjournment** – Brian Wilson adjourned at 2:24
9. **Next meeting** – October 22, 2020 1:30. James will book this meeting as well as the meeting for Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.