ACADIA UNIVERSITY
JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Meeting July 22, 2021 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Teams

Present
Greg Deveau, Operations Supervisor & OHS Coordinator, Safety & Security
Melanie Coleman, Admin Coordinator, Safety & Security
Kathy Klein, Human Resources
Caroliina Landry, OHS Nurse
Ann Myers, SEIU, Library – Co-chair
James Sanford, Exec. Director, Student Services
Pat Mora, Financial Services
Michael Holmes, AUPAT
Aran Silmeryn, SEIU
Bertrand Gloeckner, Physical Plant

Regrets
Eveline DeSchiffart, Acadia Divinity
Sandra Symonds, AUPAT
Derek Parker, Physical Plant
Patrick Difford, Director, Safety & Security
Brian Wilson, AUFA
Nancy McMullin
Marcel Falkenham
Richard Johnson, Athletics
Laura Miller, Chartwells

Melanie Coleman welcomed to the group and introduced by Greg Deveau.

1. Call to order – by Ann Myers at 1:35
2. Approval of minutes – Deferred, as quorum was not met.
3. Approval of agenda – Unable to approve but Caroliina requested to add ‘Miscellaneous Items’ for New Business.
4. Business arising from previous minutes:
   a. COVID Updates
      1. Currently on campus there is a test site at the U Club and a drive-thru vaccination site at the Festival Theatre. Accepting walk-ins until the 25th (issuing Moderna). They will return to Pfizer and booking by appointment on July 26.
      2. Phasing out asymptomatic testing at the U Club; will remain symptomatic only until further notice. There are plans for a rapid test site on campus (voluntary participation for faculty staff students) and potentially a clinic for a few hours once a week (tentative; no confirmation yet).
      3. Incoming students will quarantine depending on their vaccination status.
      4. New vaccination policy: highly recommended only, not mandatory. Communication focused on recommending and promoting vaccine, hoping for a highly vaccinated campus. An anonymous survey will be sent to students/faculty/staff to determine campus vaccination levels. From there we can determine where we are to see if we can ease any restrictions.
      5. A vaccination survey went out to students living in residence. As of last night [July 21] we had received 350 responses.
6. We will encourage daily self assessment- if you feel bad, stay home. In addition, we’ll promote handwashing and strive for 1m distancing, keeping masks on. Assess as provincial guidelines change for first week of classes, continue to recommend regular testing and vaccinations.

7. Interim mask and study space (mask exempt) policies will remain the same.

8. Classes will look identical to pre-COVID: full capacity, still wearing masks within classrooms. Anywhere else striving for 1m distance (hallways, etc) but still masked.

9. Employees will maintain optional virtual meetings. If in-person meetings, best practice for 1m apart with masks (unless in a mask-free study space).

10. Cleaning will be status quo, not enhanced cleaning between classes. Provide disinfectant in classrooms to ensure profs can clean area if so choose (high frequented areas above and beyond prior to COVID).

11. Public health approached regarding a COVID vaccination clinic on campus, proposed the second week of September. More details to come.

5. New Business
   a. Directional Signs
      1. Signs will be altered on campus: directional signs taken down and two-way traffic on stairs. Still 2m distance in study spaces. Directional and room capacity signage are the target signs to come down.
      2. Departments with queues (Registrar, Tech Services, Student Accounts, and the library) will keep their “stand here” spaces on the ground. This has been communicated with building managers as well.
      3. Buildings will return to regular rates of occupancy and campus will still be closed to the general public until further notice.
      4. Will there be mandatory testing for students when they arrive? Not unless deemed by the Federal or Provincial government. If students are not fully vaccinated and travelling internationally, they are required to have a 14-day quarantine and multiple negative tests. For fully vaccinated Canadians traveling domestically testing is recommended. Partially vaccinated students need two negative tests. No vaccine is a mandatory 14-day quarantine. All existing provincial guidelines, not specific to the university.
      5. A question was raised regarding staff lunchrooms: hopefully employees will be spaced out in food areas. Working with same cohort of people, departments can “bubble” and share physical space. Continue to wear masks in common areas. If you are up and moving about put on your mask, but sitting to eat you can remove it.
   b. Miscellaneous Items
      1. Caroliina has developed a two-hour virtual Mental Health Webinar, she will distribute the Teams link. Faculty, students, and staff are all welcome to attend. She is also looking at running 2 day in-person Mental Health First Aid course. Partially funded by participant’s departments (dates TBD)
      2. There was discussion of the “B for Kai” campaign (a memorial fundraiser to support a Meningitis B vaccine and spread awareness through Nova Scotia), Acadia has been asked to offer support for a promotion/informational campaign. NSCC, STFX and Dal may also get involved.
3. There is a new webpage on the Acadia website to guide travelers coming into Nova Scotia (https://www2.acadiau.ca/COVID-19/travel.html)

6. Incident Reports – nothing to report. A few OHS reports were submitted regarding raised ground; however, Phys Plant dealt with those trip hazards as they were reported.

7. Summary of Actions and Results – no action items, primarily information. Next meeting is booked for September 23 at 1:30 PM. Please bring your schedules to the and we will plan meeting dates for the rest of the year.

8. Meeting adjourned at 2:08.