

ACADIA UNIVERSITY
JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting September 23, 2021 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Teams

Present

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

Regrets

Marcel Falkenham, Director of Facilities
Bertrand Gloeckner, Physical Plant
Nancy McMullin, Ops Manager, Physical Plant

1. **Call to order** – by James Sanford at 1:32 PM.
2. **Approval of minutes** – Motion to approve by Aran Silmeryn and seconded by Rich Johnson.
3. **Approval of agenda** – Greg Deveau requested to add an update regarding the fire in Elliott Hall. Caroliina Landry requested addressing mask free study spaces. Motion to approve by Rich Johnson and seconded by Aran Silmeryn.
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:**
 - a. **COVID Updates**
 - Not quite the uptake anticipated on the student pledge: only 1730 students responded.
 - Rapid test clinics up and running twice a week, 100-150 average attendance per clinic. Take home kits ready for distribution; hoping to hand them out at dining hall (since 800 students go through the building).
 - Anyone who has traveled, had close contact with a symptomatic person, or is asymptomatic can get tested at the U Club (which will be operating until

December). Three vaccination clinics on campus so far (partnered with either Pharmasave or Public Health) with 120 participants. Another vaccination clinic is scheduled for Oct 19 run through Public Health.

- What is the total vaccine uptake amongst student and staff? Not everyone responded to the survey. In terms of students living in residence, Caroliina Landry indicated she is confident we have a strong number of students that are vaccinated. Anticipating range of 20-25 out of 1400 people not vaccinated by October 1.
- Acadia is still closed to the public. No off-campus guests are allowed in residence and students must continue to wear their masks.
- What are the protocols for seminar speakers/campus visitors from other universities? Faculty need to include the speaker's name as part of their classroom check-in and let the department head know they are bringing in a guest. We will need their information for contact tracing and faculty must send the speaker a copy of Acadia's mask policies.

5. New Business:

- a. Safe Space Policy/Accessibility Plan** submitted for the committee to review. The plan dictates mobility support in case of an emergency (what to do in case of fire, where to go when waiting for services, and how first responders will be notified). Ideally managed long-term by Accessibility Office and Marissa Mclsaac. Please review the document and provide feedback: the goal is to have a final copy by our next meeting. There are students with accessibility needs currently on campus, so the revised document should go out as soon as possible.
- b. Fire Drills** commencing for residences next week. Any building managers (or others on the call) interested in having drills at their facilities please contact Greg Deveau.
 - Is there any documentation on how building evacuations are supposed to be conducted (i.e. fire warden protocols) on the OHS website? No, there is no set standard-- especially with mixed faculty through buildings like the BAC, where different departments are working in various locations.
 - The goal is to evacuate to a safe space "in an orderly fashion out quickest exit possible." Each department handles fire wardens differently (though ideally there is a warden for each department). Make sure to check the safe space corridors.
 - Another question was posed: how far are wardens supposed to go in the execution of their tasks? Do a scene survey and only proceed if it is safe to conduct your duties as assigned. If the situation is not safe, look out for your own safety first. If people are reluctant to leave a building, wardens are not obligated to stay. Fire fighters will help when necessary (especially if people are refusing to evacuate).

c. Fire in ELL 102

- An electromantle burner failed and caught on fire in a fume hood. The student grabbed a dry chemical extinguisher, plastered the area to contain the fire and then called Safety and Security (never leaving their experiment). The lab was saved and damage was minimal: the other side of the lab remains open for operation so student work/research is not impacted.
- A report was sent to Suzie Currie to remove this type of electromantle from circulation, recommending two-part replacement units (with a separate mantle and heating component) to eliminate the problem.
- Many compliments to the Chemistry Department for training their students! The incident was just an accident (possibly related to the age of the equipment), not something that could have been prevented or the result of anything done wrong.
- The Department hopes to put together a document of things to look for when working with heating mantles, incorporating additional protocol for overnight reactions and how to heat safely.
- Rich Johnson advised it might be a good idea to have someone from the fire department come in and do tours of these places, going through high-risk areas with people like Vlad Zamlynyy or Teri Gullon. **Next time we can get Marcel: work through his office to facilitate those kinds of visits. He would be able to help us determine whether it would be more beneficial to conduct the training during the day when things are going on, or when things are quiet after-hours.

d. Mask Update

- Signage has appeared in some areas that was not developed by the university (wrong font) and no one knows where they came from. Building managers are welcome to re-convert to mask free areas.
- Rooms are back to max occupancy with disinfectant.
- Caroliina Landry is developing a list of meeting rooms under review for mask-free designation. The following locations are approved mask-free spaces: McCain Commons/Innovation Pavilion, Biology Building main entrance, Fountain Commons main hall, KCIC Garden Room, the SUB main floor, Michener Lounge, and the Library main floor.
- A concern was raised regarding issues with compliance in mask-free spaces. In the library there is genuine confusion regarding what areas are mask exempt- some have impression entire library is mask-free. They are working on communications to clarify for student body.
- Overall students are doing a great job following rules and keeping their masks on when moving through a mask-free space. Enforcing 2m distance is still an issue when unmasked.
- Rich Johnson requested signage indicating the proper way to wear a mask (lots of patrons wearing it (below their nose or chin). One coach wearing "Gators," which is not acceptable as a mask on campus.

- All employees are responsible for following as well as promoting policy. The Department of Safety and Security tries to visit as many places as they can on campus, but they do not have a team to focus solely on mask policy.

6. Incident Reports

- a. Employee pricked by cactus; no first aid required.
- b. Fire in ELL 102.
- c. Sprained ankle on uneven concrete. (September 6)

7. Summary of Actions and Results

- Follow up with Marcel Falkenham re: first responders visiting campus.
- Review Greg Deveau's document.
- Rich Johnson to follow up with coach for incorrect mask attire.
- James Sanford to schedule the next meeting (either Oct 21 or 28).

8. Meeting adjourned by Ann Myers at 2:23 PM.