

# ACADIA UNIVERSITY JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

## Minutes

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Meeting December 9, 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  
Kathy Klein, Human Resources  
Caroliina Landry, OHS Nurse  
Laura Miller, Chartwells  
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 Zamlynny, AUFA

#### Regrets

Marcel Falkenham, Director, Facilities Management  
Bertrand Gloeckner, Physical Plant  
Michael Holmes, AUPAT  
Richard Johnson, Athletics  
Nancy McMullin, Physical Plant  
Pat Mora, Financial Services

1. **Call to order** by Ann Myers at 1:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes** – Pending vote.
3. **Approval of agenda** – Changes made to the agenda pending vote. Two requests for additional items: student compliance in mask-exempt study spaces and ergonomic assessments.
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:**
  - a. **COVID updates:**
    - i. St. FX in the middle of an outbreak, 59 students to date. Some Acadia students were in Antigonish for their ring ceremony- a few are symptomatic and isolating.
    - ii. Lots of students missing exams. Caroliina Landry talked to the Registrar- the symptomatic clinic is giving out notes: students do not need Doctor's notes; the Registrar will accept the note from clinic.
    - iii. Regular rapid test ongoing until the 23<sup>rd</sup> because of people flying out (US needs tests within 24 hours). Travel test clinics very successful- added more appointment times.
    - iv. Average weekly tests: 1,200. Last week under 1,100. Increase this week due to people picking their kits up in bulk (for parties or traveling).
    - v. Last Acadia flu clinic scheduled for Dec 12<sup>th</sup> (you can still sign up through Pharmasave). Altogether 900 doses administered.

- vi. 121 injections of the Meningitis B vaccine at B for Kai event.
- vii. A question was raised regarding the communication process between professor and student for illness. Typically, faculty receive a note from the Registrar or Accessible Services for health concerns or someone needing accommodations.
- viii. Professors ask students to send emails before their exam. Emails sent after exams are not accepted.

**b. Emergency response/emergency preparedness**

- i. Patrick Difford has been updating the notifications for Everbridge, while Safety and Security are going through regular drills on how to prepare and execute the mass notifications. There are tasks James Sanford wants to dive into, but no updates are anticipated until late January or well into Spring for completion. The item was moved forward until the committee's next meeting.

**5. New Business**

**a. Mask exempt study spaces**

- i. The library is having difficulty with mask compliance: at a head count taken just before this meeting, 15 out of 100 people were masked whereas 86 were not. Most spaces are consistently non-compliant, with students grouped together.
- ii. They are at a distinct disadvantage- study furniture is large, with rows of connected furnishings that are hardwired. There is no option to move apart to encourage social distancing. In addition, there's only one permanent staff member working in the library from 5pm onward (new part-time hires are arriving in new year). Staff were able to enforce when there were fewer students on-campus.
- iii. Proposed solutions: strategic signage, communication from administration, remind every person of the rules when they go to access services at library.
- iv. Safety and Security staff are patrolling daily and have also noted non-compliance.
- v. Greg Deveau's recommendation to the committee is to remove the exception and convert the space into a mandatory mask space. If they wanted to pursue enforcement, hire students depending on your budget to provide the patrolling. If patrons don't want to follow rules need to leave the building. Any pushback or aggressive engagement from students, contact the Security Shift Supervisor or the RCMP.
- vi. Is there an opportunity to hire student assistance through Safety and Security? Aran Silmeryn and Greg Deveau will chat offline.
- vii. Caroliina offered to send a reminder out for mask-free spaces, as it is likely the library is not the only mask-free study space with these concerns.

**b. Ergonomic assessments:**

- i. Unfortunately, there is currently no on-campus staff to provide assessment. An ergonomic assessment can be requested at the expense of the department, but it is up to the employee and their department to coordinate those efforts.

**6. Incidents reports – Minor injuries in one of the Innovation labs.**

**7. Summary of Actions and Results Timetable arising from this meeting**

- a. Patrick/Greg/James will keep meeting to discuss emergency preparedness, and present to the committee at a later date.
- b. Aran and Greg will discuss the possibility of student assistance at the library for mask enforcement.
- c. Caroliina and Aran will work on sending a reminder to the campus regarding mask-free space guidelines

Next meeting: January 27, 2022 (4th Thursday of each month, James can block out if it works for everyone)

**8. Adjournment** by Ann Myers at 2:17 p.m.