

UNBC JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

July 28, 2022

****Zoom Meeting** 3:00pm to 4:00pm**

Participants:

Sarah Elliott, (Employer Rep)- Co-Chair
Marlene Cannon, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Debbie Roberts, (Employer Rep)
David Claus, (Employer Rep)
Aaron Olsen, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Malgorzata (Mal) Kaminska, (Faculty Employee Rep)-Co-Chair
Christa Florell, (Faculty Employee Rep 1)
Shannon MacKay, (CUPE Employee Rep 1)
Peter Popovic, (CUPE Employee Rep 2)

Committee Resource:

Conan Ma, Chemical Safety Officer (Resource)
Natalie de Bruyn, (Positional Resource)

Absent:

Kerry Roberts, (Employer Rep)
Sean Kinsley, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Twylla Hamelin, (Employer Rep)
Trevor Smith, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Ron Camp II, (Employer Rep)
Lianne Tripp (Faculty Employee Rep) *Alternate 2*
Aneta Douglass, (CUPE Employee Rep 1) *Alternate*
Saphida Migabo, (Faculty Employee Rep) *Alternate*
Alan Alger, (CUPE Employee Rep 2) *Alternate*
Vacant, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 1)
Vacant, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 1) *Alternate*
Narayan Koirola, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 2)
Vacant, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 2) *Alternate*

Committee Resource:

Vacant- Health & Safety Manager, (Resource)
Jennifer Skaar – (Recording Secretary)
Tammy Klassen-Ross, (Positional Resource)

Meeting Co-Chair: Mal Kaminska

A. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement – Dr. Joseph Shea

B. AGENDA:

No changes or additions to the agenda - accepted.

C. Chair Comments

-Welcome to Dr. Joseph Shea our guest for today who is bringing forward concerns regarding indoor air quality and ventilation within buildings for the Fall semester. Mal had the committee introduce themselves for Dr. Shea.

D. Guest Dr. Joseph Shea presentation:

Dr. Shea thanked the chairs for the opportunity to talk to the committee surrounding COVID-19 concerns as we head into the Fall semester. Dr. Shea shared a powerpoint surrounding the concerns for indoor air quality, wanting everyone on campus in enclosed spaces to feel safer. The impacts of COVID-19 are still prevalent, not just the impact to people's health but the impacts to many industries regarding retention of employee's and loss due to burn out, especially within healthcare.

The mitigation initiated in response to COVID-19 was Vaccines, testing and contact tracing (which no longer appears to be practised, masks to prevent transmission and air quality/filtration to prevent virus transmission. I want us to bring back a mandatory mask requirement at UNBC. Dr. Shea acknowledged that the ASHRAE requirements were being met at UNBC but recommended that CO2 monitoring would help measure the indoor air quality. If we put sensors in classrooms, labs, and lecture halls we could see how well our air filtration systems are working when we have full classrooms. Dr. Shea noted that the University of Mount Allison on the East Coast are bringing back a mask mandate. We could turn this into an undergraduate student pilot project. I think indoor air quality monitoring is something that may continue to be relevant in society for years to come.

Mal – speaking from a medical perspective we are seeing more and more tests coming back negative at first testing by people falling ill and them not testing positive on rapid antigen tests until a week after they first present with symptoms. This is concerning as with negative test results people are continuing to work, socialize and attend school which is spreading the transmission.

Debbie – CO2 is a gas, but the virus isn't, so how are we going to be able to filter out the virus, I am not sure what the value would be for CO2 monitoring of space. Perhaps David could elaborate more.

David – we don't have a filter to take out CO2 or the virus. CO2 is a good means of measuring how much outdoor air you are bringing into the space; they are a good indicator as to how good the air exchange rates are working. Increasing the ventilation rate any further to our buildings is not an easy task, significant increases have already been made. If you want more outdoor air in your classroom,

lower the thermostat when you enter the room. This will initiate the cooling system which draws in fresh outdoor air instead of re-circulating air. We do already have certain areas of campus for which we monitor CO2 levels. Prince George background CO2 levels are really low (compared to more densely populated areas), so we don't have to bring in a lot of outdoor air to decrease the CO2 levels in our buildings. David advised that facilities do not have capacity to take on this project but would support a student project to measure CO2 levels and that Dr. Peter Jackson has overseen similar projects in the past.

Debbie – the more important piece for me is that people should not be coming to work when they are sick. That messaging is just as important as the other measures, if not the most important as people have become complacent and are coming to work sick.

Shannon – I still wear a mask every day, many people in the community are immune compromised or have family members that are. The province is no longer mandating masks but some employers are. The prison system does not have the ability to increase air circulation, so they have kept the mask mandate in place which has helped reduce transmission and prevented outbreaks.

Christa – we installed a CO2 monitor in the FA boardroom and are monitoring the levels throughout the day, noting the different levels from a two-person meeting compared to larger numbers.

Dr. Shea - I think having CO2 monitors in some classrooms and monitoring the air throughout the day would be a good indicator for us as to the surrounding air that is being shared within certain space.

Sarah – thanked Dr. Shea for bringing forward his concerns and advised the safety office would also support the student project and could perhaps assist in the purchase of some sensors.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 7, 2022 (for June 30)

d.1) No changes or corrections. Motion to accept Sarah & Christa – All in favour, approved.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

e.1) Sub-Committee project updates-

Team 1: Mal – Team met regarding type of activities that could be implemented. Decided against a survey method due to inability to implement any suggestions. HR are planning to conduct the Employee Opinion Survey again soon. Committee felt it would be better to provide list of recommendations to EDI office so that collaborative work can be done as part of this work.

Team 2: Shannon – Have not yet met due to vacation. A lot of work was done on the quiz, we will need to update the questions as information has changed. Purpose of quiz is for the employees to go to the JOHS webpages in order to get the answers to the questions.

Sarah – as a larger group we can review the questions, recommend we launch the quiz at the end of September after everyone is orientated back into the new semester. We can put it out through announce and safety will provide prizes. Any member can access the document in Team 2 and make changes.

Team 3: Christa – All subcommittee members had reviewed the onboarding employee orientation modules and sent feedback to Arleta but noted that she had moved positions and no update had been received from HR surrounding the orientation modules.

Sarah – my understanding was HR were intending to re-launch the orientation modules at the beginning of July but as noted changes of personnel within the department had likely reduced capacity.

Team 4: Sarah – still in holding pattern, Kerry advised the sub-committee that he had sent the policy to a different lawyer as he had received no response from the previous one. The lawyer had requested copies of other UNBC policies and procedures for review in order that they could align the policy and not contradict any others when making changes.

Team 5: Sarah – Dr. Robinson has included members of this subcommittee into an accessibility working group which includes the Accessibility Ambassadors, NUGSS, NBCGSS, CFUR, ARC etc. The new AVP of EDI Aman Litt will be coordinating the accessibility committee mandated by the province

- e.2) Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) – Sarah
-Final call for members to make comments on the TOR, it will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.
- e.3) Incident from May 2022 update involving an employee in the Registrar’s Office
-Sarah – investigation remains ongoing as we have broadened the scope of the review.
- e.4) Annual JH&S Committee review - Sarah
-Final call for members to make comments on the TOR, it will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

G. Incident Report Summaries

- f.1) **Review of the Worksafe and other classified incident reports for First Aid Incidents. Safety Investigations: & Other Reports sent to members for review. – Sarah**
-No questions or comments.
- f.2) **Review of Respect in the Workplace Investigation Statistics – Kerry**
-Kerry was not in attendance but advised that one new Respect in the Workplace investigation had been initiated this month.

H. Inspection Updates

- g.1) **Building Inspection Updates – Marlene**
-Sought clarification from Debbie that Library inspection had been completed, which it had. The Agora and Utilidor areas are next due for inspection, Marlene asked for volunteers, David and Peter agreed to participate.
- g.2) **Lab Inspection Report – Conan**
-Conan noted the lab inspections are up to date and that the next set of inspections are due in August and September.

I. New Business

- h.1) **None**

J. Round Table Discussion:

- Shannon – continued education – linked in learning have numerous occupational health and safety videos and modules. A great resource that we could reference, especially as employees at UNBC have access to these modules.
- Christa noted that WorkSafe BC also have lots of videos freely available.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:58PM

ACTION ITEMS

Item #	Description	Who	Action
1) 19-009	Committee Projects	Individual Project Groups	On Going
2) 19-016	Animals on Campus Policy & Procedures Draft for Committee Review	Sarah Elliott	Tabled