

**Comité fonctionnel de la santé et de la sécurité au laboratoire
Functional Health and Safety Committee for Laboratory**

May 5th, 2021 at 2:30 pm; via Teams

Attendance

Representation	Name	Present?	E-mail
Deans/Directors from all areas (2)	Sean Kirkwood (co-chair)	X	Sean.Kirkwood@uottawa.ca
	Nada Nagy	X	Nada.Nagy@telfer.uottawa.ca
APUO (3)	James Gomes	X	jgomes@uottawa.ca
	Dan-Sorin Necsulescu	-	necsu@uottawa.ca
	Louis Trudel	X	
APTPUO (2)	Md. Mahmud Hadan	X	mhasan@uottawa.ca
	Fadi Malek	-	malek@uottawa.ca
CUPE, Local 2626 (3)	Bridget Price-Robert	-	
	Jacob Drouillard	X	
	Gilles Salameh	-	
	Agnes Bezerra (visiting)	X	
	Seema Shafer (visiting)	X	
PIPSC (1)	Alain Le Hénaff	X	lehenaff@eecs.uottawa.ca
OSSTF (3)	Scott Dick	X	sdick@uottawa.ca
	Patrick D'Aoust	X	pdaous3@uottawa.ca
	Alp Oran	X	
Non-unionized group (1)			
Non-voting undergraduate student (1)			

Resource Persons	Name	Present?	E-mail
Office of Risk Management	Graham Nelson	X	gnelson@uottawa.ca
JHSC Inspector	Robert (Bob) Atkinson	X	blitz@uottawa.ca

Chairperson: Sean Kirkwood

Secretary: Sean Kirkwood (filling in for Bridget Price-Robert)

Additional Distribution

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Minutes

1. Elect new members

With the management and resource people removed from the meeting, the workers elected a worker co-chair.

- Co-Chair: Patrick D'Aoust

Introduction of new and returning members, each gave a brief introduction of themselves and some personal background:

Robert Atkinson (JOHS Inspector)
Alp Oran (OSSTF)
Louis Trudel (APUO)

2. Approval of agenda

- Addition of two items to New Business:
 - o Health, Safety and Leadership Skills Webinar (G. Nelson)
 - o Standard airflow in a lab (A. Le Hénaff)
- Motion to approve the agenda: Alain Le Hénaff, Seconded by Patrick D'Aoust.

3. Approval of the minutes from February 10th, 2021

- Minutes assumed read; no comments or errors.
- Motion to approve the minutes: P. D'Aoust, Seconded by N. Nagy.

4. Update on ARC alarms:

- Discussion led by Graham Nelson.
- Still updating workplans and Graham will reach out to Protection Services for an update on when that connection from ARC to Protection will be completed.
- Item to remain on agenda until this connection is completed.

5. WHMIS2015 labeling

- Discussion led by Nada Nagy. Item remained on agenda as Faculty of Science was behind in their implementation.
- Sean Kirkwood updated the committee on the Faculty's response: 4 summer students hired and doing mandatory training this week. Comprehensive examination of each lab, including Vertère updates, removing chemicals not in use and updating the labels on remaining chemicals that do not meet WHMIS2015 standard.
- Scott Dick indicated that the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine met their requirements last summer.
- This item will be kept on the next agenda to track progress.

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6. Silica exposure

- Discussion led by Graham Nelson. Continued from last meeting.
- Silica is a designated substance and carcinogen.
- Exposure control program created for Facilities as it related to construction, but communicated to health, safety and risk managers (HSRMs) in Faculties of Science, Engineering and Medicine.
- Common framework as research labs do use the material though that use profile varies, so want to ensure controls are in place where inhalation is a risk.
- A question regarding Arts was tabled where sculptures as an example was raised. Graham will communicate the program to the Faculty of Arts.
- Item to remain on agenda.

7. Autoclave safety training

- Discussion led by Graham Nelson. Pandemic changes required transition from in-class safety training to online as it gives everyone a baseline.
- It is not designed to allow for participants to operate an autoclave, just know the appropriate materials. Science and Medicine have central facilities with technicians employed to run these; Engineering have them in individual labs.
- An Autoclave Certification program starting by end of summer 2021 to train users on the appropriate materials to be used in an autoclave.
- A request was made to understand the calibration/certification/checking methods and frequency on autoclaves as they are pressurized vessels. Sean will discuss with his autoclave technicians.
- Item to remain on agenda once more to close out on this question.

8. Critical injury reports

- Discussion led by Alain Le Hénaff. Because of the pandemic there are not many people on campus and therefore fewer reports.
- Mostly animal bites, material splashes without goggles.
- G. Nelson mentioned that the Alta Vista OHSC is running, so they will likely see the Roger Guindon and Peter Morand incidents leading to fewer reports likely seen at this committee unless they are of general lab interest.

9. Joint health and safety committee

- Discussion led by Alain Le Hénaff.
- Committee mostly dealing with University management strategies on COVID:
 - o Discussion on return plans, percentage of cases.
 - o Thinking of a vaccine clinic that will be accessible to the general public as well in collaboration with OPH.
 - o Rewiring classrooms for video feeds such that students can elect to be in-person or online for each class. Prof will have that option as well.

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- COVID discussion evolved into local Faculty strategies especially as some labs need to be done in person. In particular, whether there were regulations to follow. G. Nelson shared the ORM guidelines in the chat.

<https://bgr.uottawa.ca/my-safety/occupational-health-safety/covid-19>

<https://orm.uottawa.ca/my-safety/occupational-health-safety/covid-19>

S. Kirkwood shared his experience in Science: the Faculty can create their plans in collaboration with their Dean and then share these plans with the CRTF led by C. Lagüe and the Provost, focus on student experience and safety.

10. Inspections

- Discussion led by Bob Atkinson. Workplace inspections are underway.
- Academic Hall and SITE were first and then proceeding with CBY, ARC, STEM and going north.
- Question about utility of whole campus raised since most places unoccupied, to which Bob indicated he has a priority list and is focussing on places with labs.
- Sean Kirkwood indicated that there is utility in Bob getting a feel for all spaces.

11. Upcoming training

- Discussion truncated by Sean Kirkwood to simply say that the link in the agenda is still active and shows the training available from this date forward.

12. Health, Safety and Leadership Skill Seminar

- Discussion led by Graham Nelson. There are 130 people registered and hoping for more. Presenter is the president of MySafeWork. Feeds into general workplace health and safety initiatives such as Gee-Gee Jersey of Courage pledge (link shared in chat) that replaces our signed jersey program of pre-pandemic times.

13. Airflow in Labs

- Discussion led by Alain Le Hénaff. Mostly a question regarding occupancy levels in a SITE room where 10 students were planned to be seated. He did not think the response on air flow was adequate ("maximum") and wished to know if there was a baseline.
- Sean Kirkwood stated that Instrumentation through a Facility Manager can get that answer; he usually gets a quantitative answer on air in and out as well as pressurization. There is a general number usually desired in a lab (6.2 air changes), but since SITE housed photonics, it may differ.

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14. Respiratory Program

- Discussion led by Graham Nelson (see previous minutes on this topic). This program was developed prior to COVID, so he reiterated that a respiratory program involved full face mask/ half face mask, N95 to protect **individuals wearing the mask** from a traditional lab hazard (virus, particulates, animal care etc.)
- Training is available online. N95 fit tests available on demand, contact ORM.
- Respiratory program is **not** for non-medical masks/COVID mask.

15. Next meeting

- Motion by Alain Le Hénaff to set next meeting on August 11th at 1:30 pm. Seconded by Nada Nagy.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm

Signatures

Worker Co-Chair: Patrick M. D'Aoust Date: 09-06-2021
Patrick D'Aoust

Management Co-Chair: _____ Date: _____
Sean Kirkwood