

U-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

7/13/2022 Meeting Minutes | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. |

Elected Member*		Appointed Member*		Proxy*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Hawkinson (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kurt Oglesby (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sulgi Lotze (1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Parisi, Chair (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Manley (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brett Magnuson (2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nigel Horton (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Abian (7)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Martin Arroyo (7)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Norm Kwasinski (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Wagshul-Golden (8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colleen Irvin (9)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Colinares (3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Zuckerman (10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Chateaubriand (10)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Aker (4)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Ann Valentine (4)				
				Labor Union Member*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ansley Roman (5)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paula Lukaszek, WFSE 1488
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah O'Hara (6)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ann Aumann, SEIU 925
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Harrington (6)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Antonio Vasquez, UAW 4121
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alaron Lewis (7)				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Miller (8)				
				Senate Member*	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexander Lefort (9)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Faculty Senate - TBD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Coppola (9)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	= attended meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	GPSS - Gabby Rivera
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Warren (10)	*	= voting members		
		13	= voting members for quorum		
Ex-Officio Member		Ex-Officio Member		Env. Health & Safety Member	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracey Mosier, UWF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Gleason, DEOHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katia Harb
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Pennington, UWF	<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD, AGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brandon Kemperman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Charvat, UWEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Gwin, AGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erin McKeown
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barry Morgan, UWEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Nielsen, Risk Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sonia Honeydew
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lt. Chris Jaross, UWPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Wagshul-Golden, UWT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracy Harvey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seth Greenfest, UWHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cham Kao, UWB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eleanor Wade
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lorilyn A. H. Ignao
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Johnson, UWF TS			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Julie Skene
Guests					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shane Ruegamer, UWF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Helen MacQueen (HSC-1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Misty Min-Hee Shock Rule (HSC-2)

Agenda

1. Attendance/Quorum

Sonia Honeydew announced quorum had been met.

2. Call to Order and Welcome

Carmen Parisi opened the meeting with a welcome and gave a water and land acknowledgement. She then explained meeting expectations and voting procedures.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Carmen asked for any corrections to the June meeting minutes. With no corrections, June minutes were approved.

4. COVID-19 Update

Katia Harb opened the discussion with a timely note about indoor heat exposure guidance. When indoor temperatures reach 80 degrees, Katia asked units to be flexible and accommodating with employees.

UW had the expected reduction in COVID cases as campus population decreased. The Husky Coronavirus Testing Program (HCTP) positivity rate is 6.8%; PCR tests are being used less for surveillance and more for confirmation, as more people rely on rapid antigen tests. King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties are still ranked at medium community level, with likely under-reporting. Local jurisdictions are no longer doing contact tracing, as people are less likely to report. There are generally high infection rates now with BA5, which is quite transmissible but not producing a spike in serious illness rates.

The University is anticipating a surge in cases in the fall as people return from other areas. The mask policy is “strongly recommended” in most settings and still required in healthcare settings, shuttles serving healthcare, and when returning to campus after experiencing symptoms or quarantine. UW will be reevaluating the mask policy for Autumn quarter and has a strong desire to align with local health departments, though campus policies have at times been more conservative. Even if there are high community infection levels, King County does not plan to reinstate a mask mandate. You can best protect yourself with a well-fitted mask, not a cloth mask alone. These masks are available around campus.

COVID testing via HCTP will continue next school year with different scaling; the in-person PCR testing at UW Club is closed so please use staffed PCR test kiosks at the HUB, HSB, SLU, Bothell, Tacoma, and Lander Hall (locations and hours on HCTP site). Because more people are using home antigen tests, there are now a dozen antigen test distribution sites across campuses. These are unaffiliated with HCTP – employees or students just show their Husky card to get a free antigen kit. Units can purchase antigen tests from the storefront. Individuals can order free tests from the Washington State Health Department or the federal government. A [PCR vs antigen test comparison table](#) is available on the EH&S website. Report any positive case to EH&S. The COVID Response Team has secured funding for another year.

There are no changes to the University vaccination policy at this time. Governor Inslee has changed the policy for state employees but that does not include higher education. This Autumn, UW will partner with the Dept of Health to offer vaccines and boosters via mobile vans on Seattle campus, and maybe Tacoma and Bothell. Dr. Jeff Gottlieb will release an update to the UW Community before autumn quarter.

In response to a question about whether a vaccine/booster schedule is projected, Katia anticipates an annual Autumn vaccine like for flu. Immunocompromised people should get boosters more regularly. Katia introduced Julie Skene, the new lead for contract tracers. Ellie Wade, the new Assistant Director of Community Public Health, will give these COVID updates as of September.

5. **Building Earthquake Retrofits**

Shane Ruegamer, UWF Construction Project Manager, presented on the Campus Seismic Retrofit Improvement Program. The multi-phased program started in 2017. Goals were created in response to the Nisqually quake, with the aim to stabilize buildings and ornamentation. The program utilizes a Damage Potential Index to determine and prioritize projects. The list of projects has been developed to be proactive with building upgrades. There is a budget of \$50 million, though this budget does not go too far with the older buildings. Shane reviewed the program history and said Phase 3 should be complete by the end of summer.

Seismic upgrades extend the useful life of a building, but the main goal of this project is to hold together building elements (e.g. masonry and appendages) so that people can get out safely. Ornamental pieces are drilled down. Only a limited number of firms can work on these projects. Scoping documents include extensive photo documentation, as every building is different. Some require steel structures and others require exterior fixes for exits. The project list attempts to balance intensive and low intensive buildings for each biennium. This project will continue into the late 2020s.

In response to the question of what happens if there is an earthquake before project completion, Shane answered that they are trying to complete projects as soon as possible. Carmen reviewed “drop, cover, hold” procedures during an earthquake.

6. **Organizational Group Reports**

Carmen requested groups present reports on anything new, interesting presentations, or any updates.

HSC-1

Carmen Parisi said regarding the availability of rapid antigen tests around campus, the UW Insider reported available locations but HSC-1 requests a separate email communication on this. Katia explained this was in an all-campus email from Jeff Gottlieb at the end of the school year.

HSC-2

Nigel Horton reported the group is moving into the new UDB building. There was an OARS report and some concerns about evacuation procedures at UDB. Multiple groups in HSC2 have been dealing with vandalism issues, and with more encounters with drug paraphernalia and human waste, an increased concern of bloodborne pathogen exposure. UWF has hired a consultant to help deal with concerns. Norm Kwasinski shared an L&I link regarding outdoor heat exposures.

HSC-3

Kurt Oglesby reported that the group reviewed their charter and made corrections and additions.

HSC-4

Christine Aker reported that the group met but did not reach quorum. They will meet again next month.

HSC-5

David Manley reported that the group met and reviewed presentations about safe patient handling from subject matter experts from employee health, patient rehabilitation, and physical therapy. Group went over trending analyses.

HSC-6

Laura Harrington had nothing to report.

HSC-7

Alaron Lewis had nothing to report.

HSC-8

Susan Wagshul-Golden reported that Steve Costanti was elected the new chair and the group is now using Microsoft Teams platform to keep notes and maintain member engagement.

HSC-9

Sarah Coppola discussed confusion over HCTP reduction in surveillance testing during summer quarter while classes and labs are active on campus. She asked how University plans to keep up with testing demand. HSC-9 has drafted a request for stricter policies in Autumn, or to allow individual professors more authority re: COVID precautions in their spaces. Sarah also emphasized the need for better communication, particularly to postdocs, about where to report COVID. She also asked for how to deal with indoor heat conditions and how to know at what point should people be sent home? Sarah also described concerns about significant disruptions caused by previous HBO filming; the production crew did not work with EH&S or the ADA office.

Katia said Husky Testing will continue offering PCR kits via kiosks, even though the UW Club is closed. There are also free public health testing sites. Mail-in testing kits are available for Tacoma and Bothell students and personnel. The SLU testing site is adjusting hours. Sarah raised concerns about people with symptoms entering heavy traffic areas like the HUB to get a test, and Katia responded that it is expected they will wear a well-fitted mask.

Katia said EH&S agreed there were problems with the last HBO filming session. For the next filming session HBO will be working with the media team to address EH&S considerations.

Katia said the EH&S website has heat stress information, though mostly for outdoor workers. For the many buildings that do not have air conditioning, departments should have accommodations for remote work or find different areas for employees to work.

HSC-10

David Warren described an OARS report that someone fell off of a chair they used as a ladder.

7. Union & Senate Reports**GPSS**

Not present.

WFSE 1488

Not present.

SEIU 925

Ann Aumann had nothing to report.

AW 4121,

Not present.

Faculty Senate

Not present.

8. Ex Officio Reports

UW Facilities

Nothing to report.

UWPD

Chris Jaross reported that two officers were recently hired, one more will join in a couple of weeks. Chief selection process had been narrowed down to two candidates. The department is hoping to have a decision by the end of summer.

Emergency Management

Steve Charvat reported on indoor heat protocols. University departments should follow L&I and State recommendations, and should not wait for University-wide decisions to be set. Considering summer heat and wildfire smoke, individuals may be looking to come to campus to work.

Emergency Management is currently looking for recommendations for minimizing heat impact.

DEOHS

Rick Gleason reported that the Governor's Health and Safety conference is in two months, featuring Root Cause Analysis process. Some portions of the conference will be recorded.

AGO

Nancy Gwin had nothing to report.

Claim Services

Ken Nielsen had nothing to report.

Transportation Services

Eric Johnson had nothing to report.

UW Tacoma

Susan Wagshul-Golden had nothing new to report.

UW Bothell

Martin Arroyo had nothing to report.

UWHR

Seth Greenfest had nothing to report.

9. EH&S Updates

L&I

Erin described that we had a closing conference with L&I regarding two violations for the School of Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department at Sandpoint location. The violations had to do with management of sharps and reusable sharps.

We had an L&I investigation open conference at Harborview having to do with workplace violence. A patient threatened staff when they didn't get what they wanted.

General

Erin announced that the online Fire Extinguisher training has been updated and is now live on the EH&S training website via the UW Bridge learning management system. The course covers the hazards involved in early stage firefighting and the general principles of fire extinguisher use. This course is the prerequisite to sign up for the hands-on fire extinguisher training:

<https://ehs.washington.edu/training/fire-extinguisher-training-online>.

EH&S has a new [Preventing Workplace Falls](#) webpage with information and resources for UW personnel to recognize hazards and reduce the risk of injuries that can occur after falling from a height and from slipping or tripping. The page can be accessed by visiting the EH&S Fall Protection Webpage and clicking on the Preventing Workplace Falls link on the left side of the page beneath Fall Protection.

The EH&S Hazardous Energy Control – Lockout/Tagout webpage and all program documents were updated on June 28th.

Katia announced that the HSB J-wing source removal will take place August 4-6, with robust security.

The 2022 edition of the [UW Field Operations Safety Manual](#) was approved by and is published on the [Field Operations Safety webpage](#).

EH&S is recruiting for three positions including a Physical Safety Program Lead, Fire and Life Safety Specialist, Assistant Director for Occupational Safety and Health, and a Manager in Research and Occupational Safety.

10. Good of the Order

Carmen asked if anyone had anything to offer for the good of the order. There was nothing.

11. Adjourn

Carmen asked for a motion to adjourn. Motioned and seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 2:07pm

Links/Resources:

COVID-19 Testing: <https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/testing/>

Current COVID-19 conditions and looking ahead to summer and fall:

<https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/2022/06/02/current-covid-19-conditions-and-looking-ahead-to-summer-and-fall/>

Ambient Heat Exposure Rulemaking:

<https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/rulemaking-stakeholder-information/ambient-heat-exposure-rulemaking>

Husky Coronavirus Testing: <https://www.washington.edu/coronavirus/testing/hct/>

Indoor Air Quality: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/environmental/indoor-air-quality>

Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference: <https://na.eventscloud.com/website/37083/>

Prevent Workplace Falls: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/workplace/fall-protection/preventing-workplace-falls>

Institutional Chemical and Physical Safety Committee: <https://ehs.washington.edu/research-lab/laboratory-safety/institutional-chemical-and-physical-safety-committee>