Faculty of Health Sciences
Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)
Minutes of Meeting

Held Wednesday, August 18th, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

Attendees:
Logan Bale DBMS USW Local 2010
Dan Langham EH&S
Edwin Ocran PSAC 901– unit 1 (TA’s/TF’s)
Monika Holzschuh SRT QUFA
Yat Tse DBMS MGMT
Sharon David SRT MGMT
Christine Irving FHS Ops MGMT
Allison Mackey Nursing MGMT
Jacqueline Findlay Medicine MGMT

Minutes:
Allison Leverette FHS Ops Non-union

Co-Chairs:
John Singleton Cancer Research Labs MGMT
Worker co-chair vacant

Regrets:
Hamid Ghaedi PSAC 901– unit 2 Non-union
Anne Biggar CCTG

Copy to: Safety Officers, Faculty of Health Sciences
Department Heads

J. Singleton (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

1) Approval of the Minutes of July 21, 2021
Approved as written, by S. David and seconded by C. Irving.

Note: Monika Holzschuh will be stepping in for L. Pelland as FHS JH&SC representative for QUFA.

2) New Business
2.1 Inspection Update – School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Louise D. Acton building
Feedback on the inspection form regarding specific items that may be problematic can be sent to Environmental Health & Safety. EH&S can review and make changes if necessary.

The main issue in this inspection were two air conditioner plug-ins where window a/c units were plugged into a power bar and not into the wall units.
S. David will follow up with K. McKeegney with respect to this issue. In addition, the inspection was immediately following floor cleaning in the building, so many items were piled high to be kept off the floor.

Safety officers will need to monitor their areas more frequently as employees are returning to campus and the spaces are being used more regularly.

2.2 Draft In-person Protocols (Fall 2021) – D. Langham
Classroom guidelines have been reviewed, revised, and updated to include “lessons learned” and new realities that could be faced this September. These protocols were sent to JH&SC’s for review last week with a tight timeline in order to be communicated widely in a timely manner. The documents have not yet been finalized and comments can still be submitted. How students and instructors should use the space with respect to expectations and flow has been outlined in the protocols.

It is suggested to add the Queen’s Security phone number when it is referenced to call Security if someone is not wearing a mask in the classroom.

It is also mentioned that, in many cases, clinical students do not fall under typical guidelines of a “student” – the School of Rehabilitation Therapy had made some edits to the document. Especially with respect to accommodations and missing classes, this cannot be easily done in a clinical setting.

It is questioned how much longer Elentra will be used for tracking purposes, and whether Elentra should be included in the protocols document. The document mentions to track and self-assess for Covid-19 symptoms in SeQure. It is likely that contact tracing will be gone once “Step 3” in the provincial guidelines is over. There is a need for more guidance for sector requirements in the fall, including tracking. The overlap of systems is noted. EH&S is in contact with the Public Health Unit with respect to what type of information would be required surrounding a positive case on campus at this time as well as into the fall.

3) Other Business
3.1 Covid-19 update – D. Langham
There have recently been two major announcements. The first is that the province is remaining in Step 3, and that there is no real indication for when the province will be moving beyond this phase, even though vaccine milestones have been surpassed. Therefore, the province is remaining in Step 3 for an indeterminate amount of time. This has a large effect on University operations in the shorter and longer-term. For all intents and purposes, it is status quo for on-campus activities as we remain in step 3.
There needs to be some assessment regarding where the University is going as we move into the fall and the effect that remaining in step 3 could have on operations. It would be helpful to know what the government expectations are for sector-specific guidelines. These should be coming soon.

The second announcement that was made was that vaccinations would be mandatory at post-secondary institutions, for accessing on-campus buildings. Queen’s has provided an announcement with respect to this, and work is continuing with respect to how to operationalize this requirement, including scope and how the information will be collected and stored. Details are being finalized with respect to those who are unvaccinated and how and when they will be affected by this policy. An “FAQ” is available on the Covid-19 information page and will be updated regularly and expanded as more information becomes available from the government with respect to the vaccination requirement.

An updated masking requirement document will also be made available to JH&SC’s in the very near future, for review and comment. More general health and safety guidance and where some adjustments may need to be made with respect to anticipation for the fall is also coming. A new draft will be released shortly, for comment.

C. Irving comments on the vaccination mandate, which has already been enacted internally for professional students due to affiliation agreements. There are very high rates of vaccination among this group. Educational sessions with Dr. Buttemer will be provided for those who are questioning and considering vaccination. The Faculty will be as proactive as possible with information sharing. More information is likely to come in the next couple of weeks from the government. There is good progress with the Departmental safety plans – these are being completed and submitted to central FHS.

_The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm._

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE Wednesday, September 15th, 2021.**

Minutes approved by:

[Signature]

Co-Chair J. Singleton

(Worker Co-Chair position is vacant)