

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

Held Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Attendees:	Anita Lister	DBMS	MGMT
	Dan Langham	EH&S	
	Edwin Ocran	PSAC 901– unit 1 (TA's/TF's)	
	Hamid Ghaedi	PSAC 901– unit 2	
	Sharon David	SRT	MGMT
	Allison Mackey	Nursing	MGMT
	Jacqueline Findlay	Medicine	MGMT
Minutes:	Allison Leverette	FHS Ops	Non-union
Co-Chairs:	John Singleton	Cancer Research Labs	MGMT
	<i>Worker co-chair vacant</i>		
Regrets:	Logan Bale	USW Local 2010	<i>(on Leave)</i>
	Anne Biggar	CCTG	Non-union
	Christine Irving	FHS Ops	MGMT
	Lucie Pelland	SRT	QUFA
Copy to:	Safety Officers, Faculty of Health Sciences Department Heads		

J. Singleton (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

1) Approval of the Minutes of February 24, 2021

Approved as written, by A. Lister, and seconded by A. Mackey.

2) New Business

2.1 Inspection Reports

I. Public Health Sciences (Carruther's Hall, floors 2 and 3)

A. Mackey and H. Ghaedi inspected, accompanied by N. Remillard. Safety Officer will respond to issues in writing by end of April 2021.

II. Centre for Neuroscience Studies (Botterell Hall, floor 2)

A. Mackey and H. Ghaedi inspected, accompanied by K. Moore. Safety Officer will respond to issues in writing by end of April 2021.

3) Other Business

3.1 Issues arising from the Minutes of February 24, 2021

An EH&S Officer inspected an office in the Louise D. Acton building (Room 104B) with respect to radiation measuring from a fuse box. It was indicated that there were no issues with increased temperature or heat from the panel. With respect to the radiation measuring, this resulted in very low readings, well below the standard. This issue was raised as a result of an inspection report, as well as was brought forward by the employee situated in the office.

3.2 Covid-19-related updates (*D. Langham*)

The region has now moved into yellow (protect) status, from green. The University has shut down a number of services as a result of increases in cases in the student population, particularly with variants of concern. There was an outbreak linked to a residence, and transmissions off campus have been occurring as a result of gatherings. The ARC was shut down as a potential location for congregation, in addition to uncontrolled seating areas around food services. This was based on University decision-making, rather than related to the community move from green to yellow.

There has been a slight decrease in case numbers amongst the student population in the last few days. However, this trend needs to continue, and the campus community must remain vigilant. The vaccine is not a widespread solution at this time; there must be a continued focus on limiting potential for spread.

There is an increase in cases across Ontario, as predicted, as a result of the variant. Half of the cases in the Kingston community are related to or potentially related to a variant, which is also quicker and easier to transmit. As a result, the margin of error is currently a lot less for Covid variants. Lunchrooms and breakrooms are still a focus for reducing the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace.

There was an opportunity for D. Langham and J. Singleton to meet to discuss concerns raised with JH&SC inspections, in Botterell Hall, in particular, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who raised the concerns were also present – Y. Tse, K. McKeegney, and S. Smith. The concerns were reasonably addressed with respect to contact, and there is an ability to resume inspections in this area. Considerations were given such that those inspecting the building should pick a quieter time in the building, such as early morning, when there is a lower density of people. It was also deemed to be helpful to book with the Safety Officer as far in advance as possible in order to plan to keep lower occupancy levels in the building. Those JH&SC members conducting the inspections should continue to

adhere to all building rules with respect to access, movement, and remaining cognizant of occupancy in rooms.

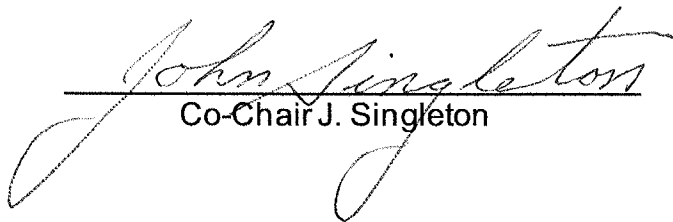
There have been some discussions on academics and operations with respect to phasing back on-campus in the fall and what that will look like, and what supporting information is needed for Departments. A return to campus now will potentially be different than in the fall – i.e., what phasing, and documentation will be needed for Departments? The University does not yet know what the fall is going to look like, with various scenarios now being considered and discussed. Guidance documents will likely be circulated in the summer with respect to review and comments by Joint Health & Safety Committees, and for consideration with respect to what types of changes are needed.

An updated inspection schedule was circulated. Also welcome to new Management member J. Findlay, representing the School of Medicine. There is still one Worker representative position vacant, that EH&S will look into filling.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 at 2:00pm.

Minutes approved by:


Co-Chair J. Singleton

(Worker Co-Chair position is vacant)