



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday, February 28 2018, meeting 1:15pm to 2:30pm Support Services Building, Room 4220

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Agenda John Ciriello, second by Phin Perquin. Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting. Cleusa DeOliveira, second by Mike Gaylard. Carried.

3. Business arising from previous meeting

3.1 Q-fever Exposure

(T.Hammoud & Dr.Siu)

Dr.Siu handed out a 'Q-fever Information Sheet' to all attendees and proceeded to provide background information on;

1. What is Q-fever and what causes it?
2. How is Q-fever transmitted?
3. What are the symptoms of Q-fever?
4. Can Q-fever become serious?
5. What is the treatment for Q-fever?

Dr. Siu then provided a timeline of events; July – Dec. 2017 sheep were used, not tested on re-entry from farm. November 2017 a worker had a positive blood test. Western notified MOL in Jan. 2018 and MOL visited on-site in Feb. 2018. Dr. Siu has also been in contact with Public Health Ontario. ACVS has changed their protocol for all sheep going forward (all will be tested, even upon re-entry). All staff working with animals must wear N95 respirator protection.

Question from Darryl: "have we tested any trades people that might have entered room 16 or 17?". Answer from Dr. Siu: "We would encourage anyone that is concerned to contact Christine Brown to arrange testing". Comment from John: "We should've notified all potential exposures; students, staff, a message should've gone out". Response from Tony: "ACVS informed all staff and clients by checking their access logs". Comment from John "The message didn't reach everyone". Question from John: "Are we concerned there may be an epidemic?" Answer from Tony: "We are not hiding anything. We have informed various gov't bodies, biosafety, many experts are working on it – the testing is inconclusive right now. We are working with experts at the U of Guelph and as we come across any new information, we are informing community members." Comment from Cleusa: "I'm concerned about researchers that have accessed the prior sheep facility. Do we know they weren't exposed?" Answer from Tony: "Anyone that has concerns can come for testing – money is no object. Also if you have additional questions, you can contact Nicole G". Comment from Dr. Siu: "We are working on the occupational exposure – where is the source? Public Health opinion is if you're not sick, there's no concern. Occupational Health opinion is if you're not sick, that's ok, but where was the source? We've tested 47 workers and we are trying to close the loop." Comment from Phin: "It's important to remember that the source could've been from elsewhere too – e.g. a petting farm, the Fair, etc." Comment from Dr. Siu: "Workers going forward are protected by N95 PPE".

3.2 Smoking Committee Updates

(M.Mills)

Matt provided all participants with a copy of the mass email re: Smoke Free Campus that will be emailed to all students, faculty and staff later this week.

Conversation then moved into discussion about the Designated Smoking Areas (DSA's) that will be established on campus as part of Phase II. Matt discussed the process thus far, which has involved consultation from various union groups, associations, staff and students. Consultation will continue, including an opportunity for further detailed

discussion with the JOHSC. Matt provided a campus map and detailed location descriptions to each participant. Explained that this is an early draft of potential DSA's (7 areas were listed, most being near the periphery of campus).

Matt informed the group of an event being held on Mar. 21st – a 1 Day Stand (against commercial tobacco use). This event is being led by the Masters of Public Health (MPH) students with Shannon Sibbald as faculty lead. Day will consist of information booths set up in 2 locations; UCC & SSB. Opportunities will be provided to have a conversation about the move to a Smoke-Free Campus, review DSA's, and hear from a panel (students, faculty, Health Services, HR, Facilities Management, Leave the Pack Behind, Middlesex London Health Unit) that will also take Q&A discussion. Panel discussion will be live-streamed on Facebook via USC Health Promotions.

Matt then discussed the STOP cessation program that is offered by the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU). Three staff areas (with higher populations of smokers) were targeted for this program. Unfortunately zero participants registered and the program scheduled for early March was cancelled. This will be revisited for possible summer 2018 delivery.

3.3 Workplace Inspection Schedule

(M.Mills)

Matt thanked inspectors that have worked with him thus far on bringing him up to speed on the workplace inspections (Linda, Darryl, Kim) and noted that he would be requesting other inspectors' availability for the next couple of months.

4. Review and Assess Trends

(M.Mills)

4.1. Accident/Injury Report

Matt noted that January was a challenging month for us, with increased injuries reported over the same period in 2017. Injuries were correlated with the number of cold weather days we had, specifically on days of heavy snow and freezing. Many slips, trips and falls.

Comments from Phin: "new snow contractor is not doing a good job of cleaning the snow. People are trying to navigate over snowbanks and hurting themselves. There should be cuts in the snow, to allow for navigation of the sidewalks. The university did a better job when they were in charge of this."

Comments from John: "It's the same in the Dental parking lot and there are many seniors using this area". Comments from Linda: "It seems as though many of the walkways heading in aren't plowed".

4.2. Workplace Inspections: Trend Data, Overdue Orders, Schedule

Report was provided to all participants. No concerns with overdue orders.

4.3. Work Refusals – none to report

4.4. Critical Injuries – none to report.

4.5. Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC

None to report.

4.6. Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168)

(J-C. Aubin)

Nothing to report.

5. New Business

5.1 Sydenham Hall fire incident

(M.Mills)

Matt provided a handout titled "Sydenham Evacuation" which listed details of an incident that happened on Feb.7th at 2:51pm. Summary is that there was a small fire in a garbage can of the chiller room of Sydenham Hall that required an

evacuation of all students, staff and required the assistance of the London Fire Dept., CCPS and Western HazMat Team. Root cause was attributed to bromine puck and oil combining to create the fire.

Comment from Thomas: "Bromine is used in cooling towers on campus. The compressor had recently had an oil change. The oil and the oxidizer combined to create the fire. All chiller rooms on campus were checked for similar situations."

Going forward, bromine will be stored in containers to prevent any mixing.

5.2 Policing on Campus

(J.Ciriello)

Comment from John: "Police don't have much of a presence. UWOFA is concerned about our safety when walking around campus at night. What is the staffing level? Is there enough staff based on incidents?"

Phin: "I concur with John. There was an incident at Physics – we called CCPS and the response was that there was nobody available."

Chris: "Curious to know if there's a metric; e.g. how many calls were you not able to respond to. I will follow-up with J.C."

6. Adjournment

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Sept. 13, 2017 (SSB4220)

Jan 17, 2018 (SSB4220)

May 16, 2018 (SSB4220)

Oct. 25, 2017 (SSB4220)

Feb 28, 2018 (SSB4220)

June 20, 2018 (SSB4220)

Dec 6, 2017 (SSB4220)

April 4, 2018 (SSB4220)

*Meeting **attendees** indicated below in **bold**

Worker Representatives

Cindy Morton-Cesarone, CUPE2692

John Ciriello UWOFA

Khadry Galil UWOFA

Thomas Stein, IUOE

Phin Perquin, PMA

Kim Law, PMA Alternate

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361

Steve Pepper, CUPE Alternate

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

Linda Jackson-Boeters UWOSA

Cindi Talbot, SAGE

Navraj Heer, PSAC

Scott Hessel, OPSEU

Employer Representatives

Chris Bumbacco

Barry Russell

Steve MacKay

Mike Gaylard

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Matt Mills

Jean-Claude Aubin

Tony Hammoud

Dr.Siu