



## Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 2:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Location – Support Services Building 4220

### MINUTES

Start Time: 2:04 pm

#### 1. Land Acknowledgement

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025)

- Approved.

#### 4. Business arising from previous meeting.

##### 4.1 Campus Updates

- Director, Health Safety and Well-Being (HSW) updated the committee on campus activities.
- Director, HSW, advised the committee related to the Living Well Program which has included renovations to the program space areas. Employees are encouraged to participate in the offerings.
- Director, HSW reviewed some reported accidents of note which included a chemical splash injury to a worker that required the use of eye wash station. Investigation indicated access difficulties to eyewash station and PPE procedures not followed for the task.
- Director updated the committee on the development of Worksafe@Western's biosafety administration platform.
- Director, HSW, introduced a co-op student who is working for HSW for the Winter term.

#### 5. Review and Assess Trends

##### 5.1 Accident/Injury Report

- Reported incidents 2025, 403 incidents have been reported on campus: 249 First Aid related incidents, 50 Lost Time related incidents, 76 Health Care related incidents and 28 Near miss/Hazard reports.
- The committee reviewed reported incidents that occurred December 2025.
- Monthly incident numbers were compared to incident data from previous years (2023 and 2024) to identify any potential trends for further investigation.
- Section 52 notices were reviewed.

##### 5.2 Critical injuries

- 1 critical injury reported.

### **5.3 Workplace Inspections**

- A review of inspections completed in 2025 was presented to the committee.
- A review of inspection checklists indicated a 95% safe response rate.
- For unsafe responses, 371 correct actions were assigned as part of inspection program in 2025.
- Reportable Items
  - 10 items remain open and past due from previous inspection cycles, in most cases these are completed but require the assigned party to finalize in WorkSafe@Western.
  - Committee discussion on finalizing outstanding actions.

### **5.4 Work Refusals**

- None to report.

### **5.5 Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC**

- UWOSA representative recommended that ergonomic risk be included on University Risk Management Framework documentation all roles with physical demands
- Committee discussion included in use mechanisms for hazard communication, role description to inform workers on potential hazards related to work.

### **5.6 Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168)**

- None

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Incidents – Designated Substance**

- HSW advised the committee of a reported worker exposure to asbestos in the Faculty of Engineering.
- Work occurred in summer 2024, the work completed was undertaken without precautions for asbestos based on the supplier information at the time. In November 2025 the supplier advised the University that the materials that they had provided may contain asbestos, prompting an investigation into the level of exposure and the number of persons exposed.
- All work with the material the terminated and the material was safely disposed.

### **6.2 Laboratory Safety Committee Information**

- Fume hood use training is under review to ensure that workers have requirements in place to correctly use hood systems.
- Ontario Fire Code has been updated, and this may have impact on the use of compressed gases and flammable materials in labs on campus. Fire safety and Health Safety and Well-Being are reviewing changes to ensure compliance with the code in campus laboratory operations.
- Impacts may include updates to spill procedures and fire drills.

## **7. Adjournment**

**End Time: 2:41 pm**

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

2026- Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jun 9<sup>th</sup>

Worker Representatives (Attendees in bold)

**Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA**

Christopher Yates, CUPE 2361

**Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361**

**Felix Lee, UWOFA**

George Dugbartey, PSAC 610

**Gurpreet Dhani, PMA**

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

Lesley Oliver, PMA (Alternate)

Lewis Pellar, IUOE

**Mike Parker, UWOSA**

Matthew Anderson, CUPE 2692 (Alternate)

Peter Chidiac, UWOFA

Sandy Paiva, CUPE 2692

Stephen Crowe, IUOE (Alternate)

Employer Representatives

**Bryan Wakefield**

**Craig Clifford**

Chris Bumbacco

**Mike Gaylard**

**Robert Thompson**

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Jean-Claude Aubin

**Kyle Pollard**

**Louise Koza**

Guest

**Vignesh Chakravarthy**