



Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Wednesday January 25th, 2025, 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm

Location – Support Services Building 4220

MINUTES

Start Time: 2:00 pm

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (December 11^h, 2024)

- Approved.

4. Business arising from previous meeting.

4.1 Campus Updates

- Director, Health Safety Well Being presented an update on campus activities
- Winter weather has disrupted campus activities – closures or classes moved online due to environmental factors
- Hazards related to snow and cold are factors for traffic, pedestrians and outdoor work
- Some outdoors area has winter closures where the area is not maintained.
- Worksafe@Western has gone live with our Radiation Safety Program management.
- Biological safety program and training records are possible next targets to development of tools to be used on Worksafe@Western.
- Supporting processes for workers injured with over exertion or strains discussed.
- Mechanical Room inspections are underway with Facilities Management

4.2 Action Plan Updates

- Director, Health Safety Well Being presented an update on proposed action plan presented in the October 2024 JOHSC meeting.
- Updates to pedestrian safety, noise assessments, harassment, safety data sheets and labeling of hazardous products, and emergency station testing were discussed by the committee.
- Work for noise assessments continues as part of the Health and Safety Excellence Program
- Preprinted labels have been deployed to improve WHMIS labelling requirements on decanted bottles of cleaning products.

4.3 Respiratory Illness Updates

- Occupation Health Physician provided an update to the committee on the respiratory illness season
- The peak time for respiratory illness is typically in Mid-January.
- The percentage of positive test results from the Middlesex Health Unit for Flu and COVID-19 were reported to the committee
- Masks are available at large classroom locations around campus.

5. Review and Assess Trends

5.1 Accident/Injury Report

- As of the end of November 2024, 380 incidents have been reported on campus: 227 First Aid related incidents, 53 Lost Time related incidents, 65 Health Care related incidents and 35 Near miss/Hazard reports.
- The committee reviewed 24 incidents that occurred in December 2024.
- Monthly incident rates were compared to historical data (3- and 5-year averages) for this month on campus.
- A number of incidents related to slip and fall related to outdoor conditions were noted in the December reports.

5.2 Critical injuries

- 1 critical injury was reported.
- Reports related to the injury were reviewed by the committee

5.3 Workplace Inspections

- A summary of inspections completed between January 13th and Jan 24th 2025 were made available to the committee.
- Reportable Items
 - 15 orders were issued for action by units from the recent inspection cycle.
 - Inspections occurred in the 3 buildings of campus within research and support units.
- Past due action items
 - 11 items are past due from previous inspection cycles.
 - Assignees for 2 past due items have been granted requested extensions to allow time to complete the item
 - Assignees for 7 past due items have completed the action and they items are pending finalization in WorkSafe@Western
 - Assignees for the remaining past due items have communicated in progress status, they have been advised to submit extension requests.
- The committee reviewed the findings of the workplace inspection program from 2024 that resulted in assigned action items.
 - WHMIS requirements, Hazardous product storage, Electrical Hazards were leading categories for numbers of findings
 - Maintaining emergency stations (eye washes and drench showers) were an area of possible improvement
 - A reduction in hazards related to storage of materials and housekeeping related hazards were noted in the findings.

5.4 Work Refusals

- None to report.

5.5 Safety Recommendations Submitted to the JOHSC

- Winter maintenance – types top dressing for walkways to included sand to assist with added traction during transitional temperatures (around 0 C)

5.6 Workplace Violence and Harassment Report (Bill 168)

- AVP-HR reported one instance of workplace violence that is being investigated.

6. New Business

6.1 Committee Membership Updates

- Health safety and Well-Being report the committee on membership updates
- Recruitment is underway with employee groups to fill in representation for vacancies
- Training is available for members of the committee

6.2 Radiation Safety Program Compliance

- Joint Committee was advised by a member related to concerns within the Radiation Safety program relating to equipment to measure any radiation leaks for certain work.
- Director Health Safety and Well-Being advised the committee that Radiation Safety Officer and other stakeholders have been made aware of these concerns updates on this item will be directed to the Radiation Safety Committee.

7. Adjournment

End Time: 2:47 pm

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2025- March 12th, April 9th, May 7th, June 18th

Worker Representatives (Attendees in bold)

Alan Grainger, CUPE 2361

Cleusa De Oliveira, UWOSA

Darryl Stanley, CUPE 2361 (Alternate)

Felix Lee, UWOFA

George Dugbartey, PSAC 610

Gurpreet Dhani, PMA

Jeff Van Haarlem, OPSEU

Lesley Oliver, PMA (Alternate)

Lewis Pellar, IUOE

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

Resources

Jane O'Brien

Jean-Claude Aubin

Kyle Pollard

Louise Koza

Guest

Sonya Malone