

U-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

10/11/2023 Meeting Minutes | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. |

Elected Member*		Appointed Member*		Proxy*	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Hawkinson (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kurt Oglesby (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sulgi Lotze (1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carmen Parisi, Chair (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Manley (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brett Magnuson (2)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nigel Horton (2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Abian (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Martin Arroyo (7)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Norm Kwasinski (2)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Colleen Irvin (9)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Colinares (3)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrea Chateaubriand (10)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Aker (4)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacob Roth (7)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Desi Schatz (4)				Labor Union Member*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Herber (5)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Paula Lukaszek, WFSE 1488
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah O'Hara (6)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephen Lundgren, SEIU 925
<input type="checkbox"/>	Laura Harrington (6)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Antonio Vasquez, UAW 4121
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alaron Lewis (7)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephen Costanti (8)				Senate Member*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donna Braboy (8)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Faculty Senate – TBD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexander Lefort (9)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	= attended meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	GPSS – Gabby Rivera
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Coppola (9)	*	= voting members		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Warren (10)	13	= voting members for quorum		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jon Wittouck (10)				
Ex Officio Member		Ex Officio Member		Env. Health & Safety Member	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracey Mosier, UWF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marty Cohen, DEOHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katia Harb
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Pennington, UWF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trista Treumper, UWHR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eleanor Wade
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Johnson, UWF TS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jo Hill, AGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jimmy Spencer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelley Biastock, UWEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Nielsen, Claim Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracy Harvey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lt. Chris Jaross, UWPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Wagshul-Golden, UWT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erin McKeown
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brett Konzek, UWB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lorilyn A. H. Ignao
Guests					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sally Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lesley Decker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Haris Malik
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexa Yadama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judy Cashman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Allyson Long, UWB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wes Cochran				

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Carmen Parisi welcomed the committee with a land acknowledgement and shared meeting expectations.

2. Outreach and the Unhoused

Sally Clark, Vice President of the Division of Campus Community Safety, shared updates on the unhoused. There has been an increase in issues in the Central Plaza Garage, and since security coverage is managed through a vendor, Campus Community Safety encourages the UW community to keep reporting concerns as it keeps the security contractor accountable.

UW now has one dedicated [REACH](#) employee to help on the UW Seattle campus from 10 am to 6 pm daily. REACH is not appropriate for acute violence issues but serves those who need to be connected to resources. UW personnel can call the UWPD non-emergency line to report individuals who may need REACH services. Carmen asked how UWPD triages potential REACH cases. Sally informed us that REACH is dispatched only in lower threat level situations and may respond in tandem with police.

There will be a more formal meet and greet with the individual from REACH serving UW Seattle. EH&S will be invited to a monthly debrief.

3. Attendance/Quorum

Erin McKeown announced the group reached quorum.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Carmen asked for any corrections to the September meeting minutes. There were none. Steve Herber motioned to accept the minutes, and Christine Aker seconded. Minutes were approved.

5. National Biosafety Month

Haris Malik and Lesley Decker from the EH&S Biosafety Team presented on National Biosafety Month: The Value of Written Procedures. Biosafety is a framework for containing biohazards within labs and serves to protect the worker, community, environment, and research products.

During FY23, the biosafety team reviewed 371 Biological Use Authorizations (BUAs) and completed 392 biosafety lab inspections. Lab inspections are opportunities for education. The team delivers specialized training to animal care workers. They also perform biohazard incident response, ensuring appropriate medical care and working to prevent future accidents.

National Biosafety Month started in 2014 by the NIH as a time to focus on biosafety practice, policies, procedures, and inventory. Biosafety and biosecurity gained recent attention through the COVID-19 pandemic. Biosafety research guidelines continue to evolve.

Here at UW, this year's focus for Biosafety Month is maintaining standard operating procedures (SOPs). These written instructions give background information for procedures from setup to tear down, and address hazards, safe practices, and guidance for ensuring consistency and quality. Proper documentation serves many roles in the workplace, such as (1) a training tool for new members in a lab, (2) a tracking tool to document changes in procedures and lessons learned, and

(3) a compliance tool to fulfill regulatory requirements. Biosafety SOP templates are available on the EH&S website. Tips for keeping quality SOPs: treat them as a living document that requires regular updates and reviews; solicit feedback from “outsiders” for unique perspectives; and write clearly and concisely to maximize accessibility.

Jon Wittouck asked about options for the disposal of small amounts of autoclaved sharps. Lab Services in Health Sciences won't take sharps that have been autoclaved. Lesley suggested he let them autoclave the sharps. She also said she could help set up an account to ship the sharps waste from his location.

6. COVID-19 Update

Eleanor Wade, Assistant Director for Campus Preventive Health, presented “UW COVID-19 Response and Prevention: Fall 2023 Updates.” King County is still monitoring and sharing data about [community transmission levels](#) based on multiple factors. Nationally, the CDC reports solely on [hospital admission rates](#). Respiratory virus community levels are reported at the [county](#) and [state](#) level, ranking COVID-19, influenza, and RSV at low, medium, or high alert levels. King County shows all three viruses below the transmission alert threshold as of 9/30/2023. Various labs across the state are also reporting on other respiratory diseases.

Two weeks ago, Dr. Gottlieb's all-campus message shared guidance for staying home from school and work when sick, staying up to date on vaccines, testing when symptoms are present or after exposure, and maintaining good hygiene. Face masks are strongly recommended when returning to campus after ending isolation or after a COVID-19 exposure. Masks will remain [available on all campuses](#) through the academic year. At UW healthcare settings, mask requirements are [in flux](#). EH&S expects to update the face covering policies to align with UW Medicine. Current requirements can always be found on this guidance [summary table](#).

This Fall the FDA and CDC have authorized updated monovalent vaccines and deauthorized the old bivalent boosters. Though [up-to-date vaccinations](#) are highly recommended, for Fall 2023, UW employees and students are not required to be vaccinated for COVID-19, even in healthcare settings. HSIP vaccination requirements remain. [Whole-U clinics](#) have flu and some COVID vaccines. Hall Health Center and Washington Department of Health will jointly host [pop-up clinics](#). The best COVID-19 vaccine availability will be through your local pharmacy; some participate in the [CDC Bridge Access program](#) to provide for under-insured people.

In August EH&S updated the COVID-19 safety training. Yesterday the COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection protocol was updated to the new UW Communicable Disease Cleaning Protocol. EH&S is building a webpage to host the updated required and recommended building signage; these will replace old signs that list the old policy of reporting every COVID-19 case to EH&S. (Reminder: now you should only submit an OARS or PSN report for your case of COVID-19 if you suspect you contracted it through workplace activities.) EH&S will notify building coordinators about new signs.

Please continue to use and distribute the EH&S COVID-19 [Case and Exposure Guidance](#) webpage, the EH&S COVID-19 [Health and Safety Resources](#) page, and the [public health flowchart](#). The [UW](#)

[COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan](#) was updated in late September. Here are the best sites to find [vaccines](#) and [tests](#).

Steve Herber from Harborview strongly recommends that people follow the [UW Medicine Huddle](#) for direct information. Ryan Hawkinson brought up an HSC-1 question about COVID-19 travel guidance on how to respond to a case during a work trip. Ellie said there is no current guidance from EH&S and departments handle it based on the specific scenario. Isolation is now only five days. Someone asked for clarification on the new building signage since there are some from June posted on the Creative Communications website. Ellie said the updated signs aren't available yet but will be within the next week. Carmen asked for clarification on where masks are available on campus. Ellie said the old Husky Coronavirus Testing sites now provide masks. Katia added that departments should continue providing masks as well.

7. Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Program

Judy Cashman, Occupational Health Nurse for EH&S, presented on the [Bloodborne Pathogens \(BBP\) program](#). The BBP program ensures personnel who could be exposed to human blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) in the workplace are safe and have an exposure control plan. The program includes [requirements](#) to offer a Hepatitis B vaccination, annual training on bloodborne pathogens, and site-specific exposure control plans.

The Hepatitis B vaccine must be offered within 10 days of initial assignment to BBP work. The [Employee Health Center](#) is notified whenever a [Hep B form](#) is completed. BBP training must be completed prior to starting the BBP work. There are two types of BBP training: [for research personnel](#) and [for non-research personnel](#). Accommodation and language services are available.

There is both a [UW Core BBP Exposure Control Plan](#) and a template for [Site-Specific BBP Exposure Control Plans](#). Judy works with each group to develop their safety program before work begins and checks in at least once every three years on elements of compliance. She reviews exposure control plans for a wide range of clients on all three campuses, including UW Facilities, UW Medicine, and research laboratories. The biosafety team provides support with the research labs.

Steve Herber commented on the effectiveness of the program. Judy said good incident reporting including near miss incidents helps. She also indicated that the switch to "safe sharp devices" at UW Medicine in 2006 and the expectation to replace sharps with safer alternatives has also helped.

8. Organizational Group Reports

Carmen asked the chairs to share novel topics, interesting trends, or other updates.

HSC-1

Ryan Hawkinson: only the earlier question about travel and COVID.

HSC-2

Brett Magnuson: we've identified half our nominees and appointees for 2024-2025.

HSC-3

Tony Colinares: nothing to report.

HSC-4

Christine Aker: we cancelled the September meeting and will catch up on OARS next month.

HSC-5

David Manley: our Employee Health Services gave a great presentation on sharps and bloodborne pathogens. Flu vaccine campaign responsibilities reduced our HSC-5 attendance.

HSC-6:

Not present.

HSC-7

Jacob Roth (proxy for Alaron Lewis today): nothing to report.

HSC-8

Stephen Costanti: committee is in the nomination phase for 2024-2025 elections.

HSC-9

Alexander Lefort: our beginning-of-quarter concerns about COVID-19 outreach were ameliorated by the UW-wide message and then today's presentation. We were notified today that people are dumpster diving for lab glass boxes; HSC-9 is seeking guidance from Environmental Programs.

HSC-10

Jon Wittouck: reported on a spill from a flammables cabinet caused by failing shelf bracket. Do check your flammable and hazardous materials cabinets to assure their structural soundness. EH&S recommended inspecting the clips during each regular lab self-inspection. The committee also noticed an uptick in bug bites and bee stings in the summer months, and raised the question if Benadryl is allowable in first aid kits. Eleanor Wade answered there is consensus that over-the-counter medications do not belong in departmental general access first aid kits. You can keep them in your personal first aid kit. There can be exceptions for fieldwork out in areas where medications are not readily available. Ellie can talk offline with UW Farms and Arboretum.

9. Union & Senate Reports

GPSS

Not present.

WFSE 1488

Not present.

SEIU 925

Stephen Lundgren: The union represents about 6,500 employees campus-wide and is looking to find new talent for my position on the U-wide. Union discussions are taking place regarding workplace safety while working from home, including fall prevention, and fire and life safety.

UAW 4121

Not present.

Faculty Senate

Not present.

10. Ex Officio Reports

UW Facilities

Chris Pennington: nothing to report.

Transportation Services

Not present.

Emergency Management

Not present.

UWPD

Not present.

DEOHS

Marty Cohen: nothing to report.

UWHR

Trista Truemper: nothing to report.

AGO

Not present.

Claim Services

Ken Nielsen: nothing to report.

UW Bothell

Brett Konzek: It's good to have students back; things are picking up. Allyson Long has been busy with emergency management events this week. Yesterday was Fire Prevention Awareness day where they tested the new electronic fire extinguisher training system. Tomorrow is Earthquake Preparedness day where people pack emergency backpacks. On Friday, we're taking a tour of the UW Seattle seismology lab. UWB will be participating in the Great Shakeout on 10/19 at 10:19 am.

UW Tacoma

Susan Wagshul-Golden: On September 25, UWT had a personal preparedness workshop for staff and then later students. The campus is preparing for the Great Shakeout and is incorporating the drill into classrooms. The drill will include a practice evacuation to outdoor assembly points. UWT is planning to start a building coordinator program.

11. EH&S Updates**General**

Jimmy Spencer announced the new [Crane, Hoist and Rigging Safety Program Manual and associated resources](#) published on the EH&S website. October is also Global Ergonomics Month and UW personnel are encouraged to review and share resources on the EH&S [Ergonomics](#) website. EHS is requesting researchers [share their innovations for a Lab Safety Award](#). The 2023 Graduate Student Lab Safety Seminar had 415 attendees. Emergency responders were recently given a tour of the SLU facility. Members from EH&S recently participated in an FBI tabletop exercise with multiple stakeholders including the Chemistry department, Seattle branch FBI, Homeland Security, Seattle Emergency Management, SFD, and UWPD.

HSC Elections

Erin McKeown shared updates on the HSC election process. Each of the committees should have their nominees and elections should take place soon. Our goal is to have the process completed by 12/1. Katia Harb has communicated with the Executive Sponsors to prompt their help with elections and to confirm member appointments.

L&I updates

Erin indicate there were no new L&I investigations.

12. Good of the Order

Carmen asked for any items for the good of the order. No points raised by the committee.

13. Adjourn

Carmen asked for a motion to adjourn. Steve Herber motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ryan Hawkinson seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13pm.