

U-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. |

Elected Member*		Appointed Member*		Labor Union Member*	
X	Ryan Hawkinson (1)		Mark Pekarek (2)	X	Ann Aumann, SEIU 925
X	Carmen Parisi (1)	X	Kurt Oglesby (3)		Paula Lukaszek, WFSE Local 1488
X	Erick Rostad (2)		Beth Hammermeister (4)	X	Christine Kang, UAW 4121
X	Tony Colinares (3)	X	Liz Kindred, Vice-chair (5)	X	Amanda Clouser, UAW 4121
X	Christine Aker (4)	X	David Zuckerman (10)		Vacant, ASUW
X	Michael Sage (5)				
X	Eric Camp (6)				
X	Tamara Leonard (6)				
X	Martin Arroyo (7)				
X	Alexa Russo (7)				
X	Wade Haddaway (8)				Faculty Senate Member*
X	Christopher Barrett (8)			X	Lesley Colby, Comparative Med
X	Sonia Honeydew, Chair (9)				
	Colleen Irvin (9)				
X	David Warren (10)				
Env Health & Safety Member**		Ex-Officio Member**		Ex-Officio Member**	
X	Katia Harb				Vacant, Capital Planning & Dev
X	Denise Bender	X	Chris Pennington, UWF		Felicia Foster, AGO
X	Erin McKeown	X	Tracey Mosier, UWF	X	Nancy Gwin, AGO
X	Andreea Minea	X	Rick Gleason, DEOHS	X	Lt. Chris Jaross, UWPD
X	Manisha Konnur		Steve Charvat, UWF EM		Vacant, Transportation Services
X	Jenna Gravley	X	Barry Morgan, UWF EM	X	Ken Nielsen, Risk Services

Quorum is 12 or more of voting members
X - attended meeting
*** voting members**
**** non-voting member**

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Attendance/Quorum**
3. **Approval of August meeting minutes**
4. **COVID-19 Update**
5. **2019 UW Claim Services Report**
6. **Organizational Group Reports**
7. **Union Reports**
8. **Ex-Officio Reports**
9. **EH&S Updates**
10. **Good of the order**
11. **Adjourn**

Recorded by Manisha Konnur

This meeting was conducted on Zoom to adhere to physical distancing protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic per guidance from the Washington State Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

1. **Call to Order**

Sonia Honeydew called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. She announced the meeting was being recorded, asked that attendees mute themselves when not speaking, and described that votes will be conducted by asking those who oppose or abstain to indicate so.

2. **Attendance/Quorum**

Sonia conducted attendance and quorum was met.

3. **Approval of August meeting minutes**

August meeting minutes were approved.

4. **COVID-19 Update**

Katia Harb provided the following COVID-19 updates.

Katia discussed the EH&S COVID-19 resources page and the ['What's new'](#) section. She said this section is intended to help staff/students identify the latest guidelines and updated EH&S policies.

She mentioned the ['Face Covering Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions'](#) page as an example of something that was recently updated.

Katia said that Public Health guidance and University policy on cleaning and disinfection has evolved, therefore EH&S revised the ['Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol'](#) to include the



latest updates. She mentioned that the University expects staff/students to clean their workspace daily, especially the high-touch surfaces. Custodial units will do daily disinfection of common areas, but it is the department's and individual's responsibility to clean and disinfect their personal work areas. Katia indicated that last part of the 'Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol' clarifies disinfection and cleaning responsibilities.

Katia said that in order to prevent close contact with a potential COVID-19 positive individual, EH&S has recommended several measures like the mask requirement, social distancing, reducing density of students on campus, and the daily disinfection of work spaces. EH&S also follows up with the COVID-19 infected individual to evaluate the locations and areas where they spent more than 10 minutes. In most of the cases, the area is cleaned and disinfected due to University's daily disinfection policy. In some cases, where there is sensitive equipment, it is recommended the department/unit disinfect the areas using proper PPE and cleanser.

Katia also mentioned several other points, including:

- EH&S published '[Public Restroom guidance](#)' to address the occupancy and distancing in a public restroom.
- Creative Communications has updated '[Posters and signage](#)' to address COVID-19 messaging.
- Employee Health Center has a new phone number (206-616-3344) to report COVID-19 illness, or close contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- EH&S held office hours earlier in the day where approximately 50 people asked questions related to the implementation of COVID-19 Prevention Plans . Scott Nelson and Eleanor Wade from EH&S led the session. These sessions will be offered throughout the year, as needed.
- Katia also mentioned the '[COVID-19 Quarantine and Testing Risk Framework for Field Work](#)' and '[COVID-19 Safety Training Report Tool](#)'.

Katia announced that there will be a University wide COVID-19 testing program, which will be implemented by [Seattle Flu Study](#), in coordination with the University and EH&S. Staff and students will be encouraged to enroll into the program. The enrolled individuals will be asked to sign an informed consent. After initial testing, enrolled individuals may be selected for random sampling on a weekly basis. Katia said they are expecting to test roughly 11,000 individuals a week in September, then that many per month. It is a routine testing program and the individuals may be asymptomatic. EH&S will then follow up with the COVID-19 positive cases and ask them to self-isolate or quarantine accordingly. The goal of this program is to proactively add a safety layer to the University's COVID-19 Prevention Plan, and limit the transmission of COVID-19 on campus. This testing will help the UW identify potential clusters and outbreaks early. Katia said that EH&S continues to provide contact tracing support and plans to work with graduate students from the School of Public Health to conduct some of this work. The testing program is expected to launch next week.



Sonia Honeydew asked if there is an official announcement about building curtailments, as Building Coordinators are waiting news. Katia and Denise said that building curtailment plans are under review and have not been finalized.

Tony Colinares asked where the COVID-19 testing sites will be located. Katia said the former UW Club and the Odegaard Library will act as testing sites on the UW Seattle campus. In order to limit crowds, the individuals will be making appointments and collecting their own swabs under supervision by a member of the research team. For SLU and outside campuses, testing kits will be dropped off at those locations. Individuals will collect their own nasal swab samples and arrange for them to be returned to the Seattle Flu Study for testing in their CLIA certified laboratory.

Katia said EH&S is encouraging employees to enroll in the COVID-19 testing program, but if employees opt out of enrollment, they have other options for testing. If they have any symptoms or close contacts with a COVID-19 positive patient, the individuals can contact EH&S and get access to free testing through UWMC. EH&S has resources for other free testing. UW students can contact Hall Health Center to get tested.

5. 2019 UW Claim Services Report

Ken Nielsen gave a presentation on '2019 UW Claim Services Report'.

Ken Nielsen, Return to Work Specialist, introduced the Worker's Compensation Team at UW. Matt Weber is their Director, Pam Nathan is the Senior Return to Work Specialist, and Linda Chihara is the Program Coordinator. Ken said that the goal of the presentation is to update the committee on the workers compensation and claims information, focus on returning injured workers to the workplace, and providing insights into how one can help achieve better results.

Ken mentioned that the UW is insured through Department of Labor & Industries, and that they act as L&I's claim manager adjudicate. UW advises and provides L&I with the required information for cases. UW Claim Services are a resource to both UW employees and L&I.

Ken went over statistics on claims. In the last four years, the total number of claims has decreased. The total time loss in claims has gone up, but overall there has been a decreasing trend. 86% of all the paid claims can be broken down into 4 groups – Harborview (44%), UWMC (28%), UW Facilities (14%) and others (14%).

Ken talked about getting workers back to work after they've been injured under a workers compensation claim. An employee returning to work benefits everyone. He said it has been reported that the workers who return back to work post injury are healthier than those who have not returned. Ken talked about resources for injured workers. It is highly recommended that workers complete an incident report using OARS or the PSN system promptly. Workers should stay in communication with HR, their supervisor, and Claim Services. Supervisors should provide light duty opportunities to the injured worker within recommended restrictions, and welcome them back to work and accommodate them where possible. L&I reimburses UW for



accommodating medical restrictions. It's called the 'Stay at Work Reimbursement Program'. Claim services administers the program and reimburses directly to the department which provides the modifies/light duty. UW has received \$1.8 M total reimbursements since June 2012. Ken mentioned there is [specific training available](#) for supervisors and managers.

Ken further talked about how to avoid and mitigate accidents and injuries. It is recommended that workers take regular breaks, rotations, learn proper use of equipment and devices, evaluate tasks and engage in safety efforts. Poor housekeeping and wet floors are the cause of many slips and trips.

Ken indicated worker's compensation premiums are based on claims incurred over a three year period. UW paid approximately \$22 million last year in premiums which is an increase from last year. Ken reiterated that UW's focus on safety is important to reducing our claims and premiums.

6. Organizational Group Reports

HSC 1 –Ryan Hawkinson said that HSC-1 met this morning (September 9) and reviewed OARS reports. Andreea Minea from EH&S presented on Ergonomics. Ryan said that her presentation is a great resource to those working from home.

HSC 2 – Erik Rostad said that HSC-2 met last month, and reviewed their committee charter. He said that member absences and other delays caused by COVID-19, have made it difficult to finalize their charter. Erik said that their primary agenda for their next meeting (September 10) is to finalize their committee charter.

HSC 3 – Kurt Oglesby said that HSC-3 met on August 19. HSC-3 welcomed a new member, Steven Riggs from Hall Health Center. They discussed OARS reports and the U-Wide meeting. They also approved the meeting minutes. Andrea Minea from EH&S gave ergonomic tips for staff working from home.

HSC 4 – Christine Aker said that HSC-4 met on August 25 and reviewed OARS reports. They discussed the U-Wide meeting and updated their charter based on member changes. Christine reported that 10 of their 13 injury reports involved a student. They noticed that some of those students got in an accident in locations where the PI or their supervisor was not present at the site due to COVID-19, which led them to discuss if students should be working if their supervisors are not present. Christine said they also discussed their plan on managing and disinfecting shared equipment.

HSC 5 – Liz Kindred said that HSC-5 met on August 24. Pam Nathan, Claim Services, presented time loss data for HMC and UWMC .

HSC 5 also reviewed accident incident reports. She indicated a large portion of the HMC incident reports were related to workplace violence and COVID-19. All hospital employees were reminded



to report all COVID-19 related concerns via the PSN system, and that they have a dashboard related to COVID-19 concerns.

Liz said that they will be reporting their workplace violence rate to Medicaid as an incentive to obtain money back. She said there is an OSHA benchmark to compare workplace violence rates.

Liz added that they are preparing for the upcoming flu season.

HSC 6 – Eric Camp said that they met on August 20 and reviewed OARS report. Most of the folks working in the College of Arts and Sciences are working from home. They discussed the U-Wide meeting and restroom policies related to COVID-19.

HSC 7 – Martin Arroyo said that they met last month. Their safety topic of the month was ‘smoke-ready’. They looked at the WA state website and discussed the effects of particulate matter and ozone on the human body. They reviewed two OARS reports, and reviewed COVID-19 updates on the EH&S website, the shared restroom policy, and discussed various department re-opening plans. They also discussed air filtration in their buildings.

HSC 8 – Christopher Barrett said that HSC-8 met on August 13 and reviewed an OARS report. They discussed the U-Wide meeting, and Andreea Minea from EH&S gave an update on home ergonomics. Christopher mentioned that the Director of Facilities gave an update on Plexiglas and PPE distribution. He said their next meeting is September 10.

HSC 9 – Sonia Honeydew said that HSC-9 met on August 25. Brandon Kemperman from EH&S, John Wetzel from UWF, and Guarrin Sakagawa who manages the HVAC shop were guest speakers. They talked about aerosolized COVID-19 and HVAC concerns. Sonia said HSC 9 also discussed the U-Wide meeting and resources like SafeCampus, CareLink, and the Whole U. They will discuss OARS reports at their next committee meeting.

HSC 10 – David Warren said that they met on August 17 and reviewed OARS reports. They discussed the U-Wide meeting. David said that UW does not support the use of UVC for air sanitation outside of hospital facilities.

- 7. Faculty Senate Reports:** Lesly Colby said that faculty senate has not met this year. She also announced that she will be rotating off and that there will be a new faculty senate representative at the U-Wide meeting.
- 8. Union Reports:** Christine Kang, Amanda Clouser, and Ann Aumann were present at the meeting, but had no updates.
- 9. Ex-Officio Reports:**



UW Facilities: Tracey Mosier and Chris Pennington were present, but had no updates.

Emergency Management: Barry Morgan said that the Emergency Management Crisis Communications Team is working with building coordinators to finalize a date to test indoor alert systems in the buildings across campus. Planning for the Great Shake-Out Drill is underway, and the Crisis Communication Team will test their campus wide alert message system during this drill. All the students, faculty and staff should receive the message via text or email.

Approximately 160,000 masks have been sent out to students from all three campuses with the exception of students without an address or an international address.

Emergency Management is currently working on a personal preparedness course.

UWPD: Lt. Chris Jaross said UWPD has a full-time bike patrol that typically work Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm.

DEOHS: Rick Gleason reported that DEOHS is teaching their first in-person four-day OSHA training course with five students. It will be held in Seattle on Monday, September 14 on Roosevelt and 42nd. The training plan has been approved by the School of Public Health and EH&S.

UW Tacoma: Susan Wagshul-Golden was not present.

Attorney General's Office: Nancy Gwin had no updates.

Claims Services: Ken Nielsen has no updates.

10. L&I updates:

Erin McKeown reported that the UWMC- Eastside Specialty Clinic in Bellevue was inspected by Labor & Industries due to employee concerns related to COVID-19 mask usage, barriers at their front desk, and the six foot social distancing requirements. She said she is awaiting the results of the investigation.

EH&S updates:

Denise Bender announced that EH&S has hired a new COVID-19 nurse, Jill Tonge-Seymour and a Public Health Specialist, Meagan Gourley.

Denise also mentioned that EH&S has the following job vacancies,

- Biosafety Manager
- Biosafety Officer
- Biosafety Officer Temporary



Denise said that Natalie Daranyi is conducting FAQ sessions and updating the 'Confined Space Entry Program' manual. It should be updated by next meeting.

11. Good of the Order: Sonia thanked Lesly Colby for her contribution and service to the U-Wide meetings.

Erin McKeown suggested Natalie and Denise present on the updated 'Confined Space Entry Program' at the next meeting.

Tamara Leonard asked if UW has a contact tracing application for students and staff. Denise said that there is an application in the development stages, called 'Common Circle'.

Erin wondered whether there have been any suspicious package deliveries at UW. Denise said that Zara Llewellyn sent a notice to all researchers regarding the FBI's information on suspicious package deliveries to researchers on the east coast. She said there have been no suspicious package deliveries to researchers at UW.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.