## U-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected Member*</th>
<th>Appointed Member*</th>
<th>Labor Union Member*</th>
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<tr>
<td>X Ryan Hawkinson (1)</td>
<td>X Mark Pekarek (2)</td>
<td>X Ann Aumann, SEIU 925</td>
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<td>X Carmen Parisi (1)</td>
<td>X Kurt Oglesby (3)</td>
<td>X Paula Lukaszek, WFSE Local 1488</td>
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<td>Erick Rostad (2)</td>
<td>X Beth Hammermeister (4)</td>
<td>X Christine Kang, UAW 4121</td>
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<td>X Tony Colinares (3)</td>
<td>X Liz Kindred, Vice-chair (5)</td>
<td>X Amanda Clouser, UAW 4121</td>
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<td>X Christine Aker (4)</td>
<td>X David Zuckerman (10)</td>
<td>Vacant, ASUW</td>
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<td>X Michael Sage (5)</td>
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<td>X Eric Camp (6)</td>
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<td>X Tamara Leonard (6)</td>
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<td>X Alexa Russo (7)</td>
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<td>X Wade Haddaway (8)</td>
<td>** Faculty Senate Member*</td>
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<td>X Christopher Barrett (8)</td>
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<td>Lesley Colby, Comparative Med</td>
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<td>X Sonia Honeydew, Chair (9)</td>
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<td>Colleen Irvin (9)</td>
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<td>X David Warren (10)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Env Health &amp; Safety Member**</th>
<th>Ex-Officio Member**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Katia Harb</td>
<td>Susan-Wagshul-Golden, UWT</td>
<td>Vacant, Capital Planning &amp; Dev</td>
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<td>Denise Bender</td>
<td>Chris Pennington, UWF</td>
<td>Felicia Foster, AGO</td>
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<td>X Erin McKeown</td>
<td>Tracey Mosier, UWF</td>
<td>X Nancy Gwin, AGO</td>
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<td>X Andreea Minea</td>
<td>Rick Gleason, DEOHS</td>
<td>Lt. Chris Jaross, UWPD</td>
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<td>X Manisha Konnur</td>
<td>Steve Charvat, UWF EM</td>
<td>Vacant, Transportation Services</td>
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<td>X Jenna Gravley</td>
<td>Barry Morgan, UWF EM</td>
<td>X Ken Nielsen, Risk Services</td>
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*Quorum is 12 or more of voting members*

X - attended meeting
* voting members
** non-voting member
Guests

Lauren Updyke, Assistant Director, The Whole U
Jessica Cole, UW CareLink Program Manager

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance/Quorum
3. Approval of July meeting minutes
4. COVID-19 Update
5. Resources for Mental and Emotional Health
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 would 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 July meeting minutes
   July meeting minutes were approved as amended.

4. COVID-19 Update
   Katia Harb provided the following COVID-19 updates.

   Katia said that EH&S has updated the Face-Covering policy. The following details have been updated,
   - Enforcement – UW will align with state’s policy on face-covering enforcement. Personnel are required to wear face-covering. The document also outlines the escalation stages
starting with verbal request, notifying supervisor and only informing UWPD as a last resort, if needed.

- **Accommodations** – There are medical exemptions outlined in the policy and personnel can submit for accommodation through the UWHR Disability Services Office. Katia clarified that the accommodation doesn’t allow personnel to forego masks on campus, instead they will be allowed to either work from home or have modified duties.

Katia addressed a few face-covering FAQs,

- A face shield cannot replace a mask.
- An exhalation valve on a mask does not protect others.
- A face-covering is required in cubicles, even when 6’ apart.
- Face-coverings are required in common areas of buildings.
- Face-coverings are required outdoors if personnel cannot maintain 6’ of distance from others.

Katia also informed the committee about the [Visitor Log Guidance](#) document on the webpage.

Katia said that EH&S has completed a series of three COVID-19 prevention in the workplace webinars. There were over 700 attendees and presenters from HR, UWF facilities, COVID-19 site supervisors from UW-Bothell and UW-Tacoma. She reported they received positive feedback on the webinars. Katia thanked everyone for their participation and reported that EH&S is evaluating the possibility of hosting additional webinars in the upcoming months with updated COVID-19 information.

Katia announced that UW Executive office along with EH&S, School of Public Health and Population Health Initiative have been working with UW Medicine’s Seattle Flu Study to implement a COVID-19 testing/surveillance program in the fall. They plan to offer voluntary testing to onsite employees and students, and then move to weekly random testing of a sample population. Their purpose is to monitor the personnel on campus who are not showing symptoms. They are still working on their protocol.

Katia also said there will be new students moving into residence halls this fall. There will be very few in-person classes, but lot more students on campus. Students arriving this fall will each receive two cloth masks and information on their responsibilities to ensure health and safety for everyone on campus. She also said that they are working with Greek system to develop COVID-19 safety plans for their houses in order to reduce density and decrease the potential COVID-19 transmission.

Katia announced that they are working with the [Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD)](#) to develop a weekly update summary of changes on the UW coronavirus webpage.

5. **Resources for Mental and Emotional Health**
Lauren Updyke talked about ‘The Whole U’ program and encouraged the U-Wide committee to join in a breathing exercise. Lauren said that back in March, they had to re-imagine the program to change their in-person set up to a virtual setting. Since the program shifted to a virtual setting, they’ve interacted with over 5000 people a month.

Lauren highlighted three areas of their website, that include articles on COVID-19, finding support, and opportunities to connect with others virtually.

- **Events** – They offer webinars on financial fitness, being active, eating well, staying healthy, and many more. There are over 36 resources for the UW staff. They also provide volunteering opportunities.
- **Healthy Living** – They offer counselling and mental health services, including guided meditations and moving meditations and focus on gratitude and happiness. Included is a Center for child and family well-being.
- **Videos** – They also provide seminars with past faculty speakers.

Lauren encouraged everyone to share these resources and encourage people to explore the website. Research shows the mental/emotional effects of the pandemic will get more difficult.

Jessica Cole from UW CareLink talked about their employee assistance program, which includes counselling, financial guidance, legal advice, eldercare resources, and consultations to managers who are specifically going through critical incidents or traumatic events. All employee information is kept confidential. Jessica also pointed out that they offer printed materials in 9 different languages. They also offer a COVID-19 resources webpage and webinars in different languages. She also reported that each UW employee gets five free visits with a counselor and can request remote visits. They also offer unlimited 30-minute consultations, or 25% off visits with a community lawyer.

CareLink is available to UW employee household members too! Included in resources are Back to School kits for families with kids.

Jessica encouraged the committee to check their webpage for more detailed resources, or contact totalben@uw.edu.

6. Organizational Group Reports

**HSC 1** – Ryan Hawkinson said that HSC-1 met this morning (August 12) via Zoom and reviewed OARS reports. Recent organizational changes at UW caused the Washington National Primate Research Center and Environmental Health and Safety departments to join HSC-1. Ryan said that the group did introductions and then discussed the new types of injury reports that they can expect to see in the coming months.
**HSC 2** – Mark Pekarek said that HSC-2 met last month. They did not have quorum. They reviewed OARS reports and plan to discuss the HSC-2 charter at the next meeting. Their secretary, Joles Tahara, is transitioning out of the University. They had a guest speaker discuss a work request to put a lock on a multi-user bathroom to facilitate social distancing. They concluded that they cannot put a lock on a multi-user bathroom as it violates the Seattle Building Code. He said that instead they will install signage and conduct training to mitigate social distancing. Katia indicated that EH&S is working on a guidance on multi-user bathrooms. She said that the size of the bathroom will determine occupancy limits. Katia said that staff will have to be mindful of signage, wear a face-covering, and maintain social distancing.

Mark also mentioned that staff were concerned about the safety of hand-dryers in bathrooms. Some wondered if they should use paper towels instead of hand dryers, because of the alleged spread the aerosols by hand-dryers. Katia said they have had discussions over the use of warm-dryers vs jet-dryers for hand-drying, but that there is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission by hand-dryers (or toilets). She said there are a number of studies documenting fecal coliform aerosols after improper hand washing and using the hand jet-dryers. Katia said that EH&S is not making recommendation to discontinue hand-dryers. However, the dryers should be disinfected daily as they are one of the high-touch surfaces.

Ann Aumann asked if it would be possible to lock every other stall door to enforce social distancing. Mark said no, since the number of bathroom toilets and urinals is part of compliance with the Seattle Building Code. Mark mentioned that the issue has been escalated to John Wetzel, and UW Facilities will be updating the ‘Building Readiness Guidelines’ accordingly.

**HSC 3** – Tony Colinares said that HSC-3 met last month. Since most of the employees are working from home, they discussed the potential safety hazards at home which included scenarios like tripping over garden hoses or wearing slippers on the stairs. They approved meeting minutes and discussed OARS reports.

**HSC 4** – Beth Hammermeister said that HSC-4 met on July 28. Scott Nelson from EH&S was present and gave clarifications on when to use seismic restraints. An equipment should be braced if it can potentially block an egress door, when the center of gravity is at least 4’ off the ground, or if the equipment is more than 400 pounds in weight.

HSC-4 also discussed the use of masks in cubicles and that face-shields don’t substitute for masks. They advised that N95 masks should not be used in a non-clinical settings. They also discussed the quarantine process for staff after a household member tests positive and discussed travelling in a shared-vehicle. Beth also reported that they have a new property manager at SLU.

Christine Aker reported that, since libraries are closed and unstaffed, people are being advised to keep borrowed library books for now. The books will be auto-renewed.
Christine also mentioned that Health Sciences Building Management has to constantly replace signage about social distancing and mask usage as the signs are being defaced.

School of Dentistry faculty, staff and students have been fit tested. They are now scheduling patients for treatments.

**HSC 5** – Liz Kindred said that HSC-5 met on July 27. Liz was not present at the meeting. They welcomed new members from UWMC Northwest.

Hospitals and clinics are back to normal operations. In the month of June, there were no work related COVID-19 acquisitions at HMC. There have been fewer COVID-19 related exposure incidents, UWMC has been actively implementing new policies such as a 14-day quarantine policy if employees are exposed to COVID-19 patients at work or outside of work and a new mandatory eye protection policy.

HMC Employee Health now has 2 full time nurses completing contact tracing. They also have a new hotline for COVID-19 related questions.

HSC-5 also discussed the July U-Wide meeting.

**HSC 6** – Eric Camp and Tamara Leonard said that HSC-6 met and discussed the U-Wide meeting.

**HSC 7** – Martin Arroyo and Alexa Russo said that HSC-7 met and discussed the OARS report and the July U-Wide meeting. They also discussed box-cutter safety, COVID-19 data on the Washington State COVID-19 Dashboard, and how to respond to people not wearing a face-covering.

**HSC 8** – Christopher Barrett and Wade Haddaway said that HSC-8 met and discussed the July U-Wide meeting. They had no OARS reports to review. They did not have a quorum.

**HSC 9** – Sonia Honeydew said that HSC-9 met on July 28. They had one OARS report to review. They discussed the coordination of building readiness guidelines and the site-specific COVID-19 prevention checklist. Sonia mentioned that building coordinators can be site supervisors. They also discussed the EH&S COVID-19 webinars.

Sonia said they will have one upcoming change in their committee membership as one of the members is leaving.

Sonia said that HSC-9 members gave departmental updates. One of the departments created a catalyst survey for site specific training. One of the departments have a safety committee focused on COVID-19 best practices, which meets weekly and reviews submissions on their anonymous tip line. One department discussed how their undergraduate access policy is that only paid employees will be allowed inside. One of the departments also talked about closing all shared office spaces. The group noted that there have been a lot of HVAC changes by facilities for various...
reasons and to submit a work order form if they come across any issues. One of the departments will be including, in their daily attestation email reminder, an anonymous tip form to report non-compliance.

HSC-9 also had a discussion on shared bathroom usage over concerns of social distancing.

**HSC 10** – David Warren and David Zuckerman said that HSC-10 met on July 20. They discussed the July U-wide meeting and three OARS reports. One of the incidents involved an injury related to a stuck gate. HSC-10 discussed the potential problems that may arise once in-person classes begin. For instance, they talked about how to prevent COVID transmission while using microscopes. David planned to ask for suggestions from the virology group. Michael Sage from HSC-5 suggested using barriers between workstations.

HSC-10 also discussed how to secure proper PPE for students and staff returning to laboratories, hand-sanitizer stations within the building, ordering hand-sanitizer supplies for their entire building, and bathrooms and aerosol generation in general.

Tracey Mosier and Chris Pennington from UW Facilities requested that staff contact UW Facilities Building Services about installing wall-mounted hand sanitizers. Building surfaces may contain asbestos or other hazards, and UW Facilities will conduct regulated material surveys to ensure it is not an issue. They also mentioned the fire safety concerns and the need to inventory the hand sanitizers in MyChem.

7. **Faculty Senate Reports**: Lesley Colby was not present.

8. **Union Reports**:

WFSE Local 1488 - Paula Lukaszek said that she doesn’t use hand-dryers because the hand dryers are not cleaned in between users and often collect water at the bottom.

Paula also brought up concerns about the timeliness of contact tracing in a recent positive COVID-19 case. Katia Harb replied that once EH&S is notified of positive COVID-19 worker, they begin contacting people the same day or within 24-48 hours, and do this work 7 days a week. In the particular case Paula mentioned, EH&S noted that the individual was not tested until several days after they became ill. EH&S was notified of the positive COVID-19 test result around 4 pm and immediately began tracing that same day. EH&S contacted the leads, supervisors and close contacts of this individual within 24-48 hours of knowing of the positive test result. Tracey Mosier, UW Facilities Safety Director, added that UW Facilities is discussing creating a group case manager to assist supervisors with streamlining communications.

UAW 4121 - Amanda Clouser brought up questions about Health Sciences building accessibility once Fall Quarter starts. Christine Aker from HSC-4 said that Health Sciences Building
Management will follow the back-to-school and back-to-workplace recommendations for opening buildings. As of now, the only way to gain access is via an access card.

9. Ex-Officio Reports:

**UW Facilities**: Tracey Mosier and Chris Pennington did not have any updates.

**Emergency Management**: Barry Morgan said that they are collaborating on the distribution and tracking of the masks that students are receiving. The masks will be sent out in September.

They are also developing a testing site support plan for UW Tacoma and UW Bothell so that they can support pop-up testing sites for testing by a third-party vendor.

Barry mentioned that they are gearing up for the Flu-season and will have a discussion soon, since it will affect COVID-19 resources.

Emergency Management is also resuming planning for a full-scale emergency response exercise for the U-district light rail LINK station at the UW Tower. This is necessary for certification.

**UWPD**: Lt. Jaross was not present.

**DEOHS**: Rick Gleason said that his next undergraduate class of 30 students will be conducted online via Zoom starting October 6.

Rick said DEOHS acts as an OSHA Training Center and has been conducting OSHA Region 10 training for the last 25 years. He said they have done zoom training and in the last two months they have been conducting in-person training classes in Idaho and in Oregon. Rick said that if the training room has a capacity of 30 participants, they only have 5 on-site for the in-person training classes.

**UW Tacoma**: Susan Wagshul-Golden was not present.

**Attorney General’s Office**: Nancy Gwin asked Katia about where to submit completed COVID-19 plans. Katia said that site specific plans are kept by the unit leader and the plans are then submitted to the Executive Office.

**Claims Services**: Ken Nielsen said they have no updates.

10. L&I updates: Erin McKeown reported that there were three Labor and Industries investigations in July,

- Harborview Medical Center ER had concerns with lack of barriers in their waiting areas, check-in areas and triage areas. These barriers have since been put in place. There were no citations as a result of this inspection.
• UW Bothell Facilities Services and Campus Operations had concerns over lack of face coverings in student housing, communications regarding contractor and potential exposure to COVID-19, and concerns over the flushing frequency of potable water systems. There were no citations as a result of this inspection.
• UWMC 8 South staff had concerns with telework and COVID-19 prevention plans. There were no citations proposed as a result of this investigation.

**EH&S updates:** Erin McKeown presented a short slide show addressing the reorganization of the Health Sciences Administration and impacts to four health and safety committees. Four departments that had been part of HSC-4 were reassigned. Environmental Health and Safety and the WA National Primate Research Center joined HSC 1; Hall Health Center joined HSC 3; and the Health Sciences Risk Management department joined HSC 5.

Katia Harb mentioned that EH&S currently has job vacancies,
  • Biosafety Manager
  • Public Health Specialist
  • Contact Tracers

11. **Good of the Order:**

Ann Aumann from SEIU 925 asked if one should submit an OARs report for accidents that happen while working from home. Erin McKeown confirmed that all incidents that occur while working should be reported via OARS.

Michael asked if employees are being asked to update their contact information in case of contact tracing. No one was aware of any initiative to update contact information, but that is sounded like a good idea.

Christine Aker from HSC-4 asked if there are any cleaning/disinfecting options for shared copy machines and asked if there are any disposable protection film options. Katia mentioned it is one of the high touch surfaces and reminded everyone to have disinfectants around the area. Departments should be cleaning them regularly to ensure safety. Katia also added that EH&S will look into the disposable protective film option and will see if they can add something similar in the Safe and Clean Storefront.

12. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 pm.