# U-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

9/8/2021 Meeting Minutes | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. |  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected Member*</th>
<th>Appointed Member*</th>
<th>Faculty Senate Member*</th>
<th>Labor Union Member*</th>
<th>Proxy*</th>
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<tr>
<td>✒ Ryan Hawkinson (1)</td>
<td>☐ Mark Pekarek (2)</td>
<td>☐ Ian Bennett</td>
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<td>✒ Carmen Parisi (1)</td>
<td>☒ Kurt Oglesby (3)</td>
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<td>☐ Erick Rostad (2)</td>
<td>☐ Beth Hammermeister (4)</td>
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<td>✒ Tony Colinares (3)</td>
<td>☒ Liz Kindred, Vice-chair (5)</td>
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<td>Paula Lukaszek, WFSE Local 1488</td>
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<td>✒ Christine Aker (4)</td>
<td>☐ David Zuckerman (10)</td>
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<td>Ann Aumann, SEIU 925</td>
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<td>☐ Anne Sumpter (5)</td>
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<td>Amanda Clouser, UAW 4121</td>
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<td>✒ Eric Camp (6)</td>
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<td>☐ Tamara Leonard (6)</td>
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<td>☐ Martin Arroyo (7)</td>
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<td>☐ Alexa Russo (7)</td>
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<td>Stacia Green (9)</td>
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<td>☐ Wade Haddaway (8)</td>
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<td>✒ Christopher Barrett (8)</td>
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<td>☐ Alexander Lefort (9)</td>
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<td>☐ Sheila Prusa (9)</td>
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<td>☒ David Warren (10)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ex-Officio Member</th>
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<th>Env. Health &amp; Safety Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Tracey Mosier, UWF</td>
<td>✒ Rick Gleason, DEOHS</td>
<td>✒ Katia Harb</td>
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<td>☐ Chris Pennington, UWF</td>
<td>☐ Felicia Foster, AGO</td>
<td>☒ Denise Bender</td>
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<td>✒ Steve Charvat, UWEM</td>
<td>✒ Nancy Gwin, AGO</td>
<td>✒ Erin McKeown</td>
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<td>✒ Barry Morgan, UWEM</td>
<td>☒ Ken Nielsen, Risk Services</td>
<td>✒ Sonia Honeydew</td>
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<td>☐ Lt. Chris Jaross, UWPD</td>
<td>☐ Susan Wagshul-Golden, UWT</td>
<td>☐ Jenna Gravley</td>
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<tr>
<td>☒ Allyson Long, UWB</td>
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<td>✒ Tracy Harvey</td>
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| Guest | | |
|-------|||
| ☒ Bill Steele, PNSN | | |
| ☒ Gabriel Lotto, PNSN | | |
Agenda

1. Attendance/Quorum
   Sonia verified that attendance was counted, and quorum was met.

2. Call to Order
   U-Wide Chair Carmen Parisi called the meeting to order with a land acknowledgement and reminder of our Zoom voting process.

3. Approval of August Meeting Minutes
   Carmen facilitated a vote and August meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

4. COVID-19 Update
   Katia began with the case update, and said UW has a 1.1% positive testing rate. She also said the recent UW and King County surge is plateauing while cases increase in other parts of the state. She indicate our highly vaccinated population is experiencing breakthrough cases, but that vaccination remains the best tool for preventing severe disease and hospitalization. She noted that Public Health-Seattle and King County's new dashboard shows the relative risk for people who are not fully vaccinated. They say unvaccinated people are seven times more likely to test positive for COVID-19, 49 times more likely to be hospitalized for it, and 32 times more likely to die of COVID-19 related illness.

   Katia also said the vaccination policy for employees and students is being updated to align with the new state proclamation. Employee attestations are due September 10, and student attestations September 29. UW's employee vaccination verification process will accept a
vaccine card or doctor's note, or use the state database. UW will follow up with those who indicated philosophical exemptions as those are no longer permitted. Per the state, medical and religious exemptions must be reviewed and approved by October 18th. The state and UW vaccine policies apply to contractors, vendors, and volunteers working onsite, with an exemption for those with very intermittent contact like delivery drivers. UW is developing enhanced safety measures (weekly testing) for unvaccinated students and employees.

In other updates, Katia said that the face covering policy was updated yesterday to require outdoor masking, regardless of vaccination, for events of 500 or more. Last week event guidance was updated to link to information on how to require proof of vaccination or negative test results. Updated eating and drinking guidance addresses eating/drinking at desks (minimize time without masks) and food at university meetings or functions. There were two "COVID-19 Prevention in the Workplace" webinars in late August. As always, she added that people should see the UW Coronavirus page and EH&S COVID Resources page for the latest updates.

Katia indicated that for Fall Quarter, EH&S is increasing the number of staff conducting contact tracing and have updated our workplace and classroom case response notification. She said that as campus population increases, please encourage everyone to activate the WA Notify app, and if you test positive, enter the PIN that the contact tracer gives you, to notify those who have been around you.

Question: Will someone other than my boss know about my vaccination status? Answer: That is still handled as private information. Within your org code, your supervisor, Human Resources, and anyone responsible for implementing the vaccine policy may have access.

Question: Regarding the vaccine mandate, can a union employee use personal time off from October 18 until their retirement on November 30? Answer: Human Resources and the Office of Academic Personnel will work through specific circumstances with unvaccinated individuals.

5. Organizational Group Reports and Election Updates
Carmen explained that the guest speakers were not online yet, and the Charter Update was postponed to October, so we would proceed with organizational group reports. Sonia showed the election timeline and asked for an election update from each group.

HSC-1: Ryan Hawkinson reported that Group 1 selected their election coordinator but has not begun nominations. He said their August accidents/incidents included a lot of sprains and strains, perhaps due to being short-staffed and thus experiencing more repeated or unassisted movements. He said the Back Safety and Injury Prevention training is often recommended.

HSC-2: Not present.
**HSC-3:** Tony Colinares reported that Brandon Kemperman provided a presentation on seasonal heat exposure and wildfire smoke exposure. HSC-3 reviewed the election process and asked Kurt to be the election coordinator.

**HSC-4:** Christine Aker indicated that Group 4 has an election coordinator who is working on the election process.

**HSC-5:** Liz Kindred said that Group 5 covered their annual BBP exposures review, addressing needlesticks and blood exposures (mostly in operating rooms). She noted decreased incidents in 2020 were likely due to a pause in surgeries last spring. She said last month COVID exposures increased among hospital staff, so contact tracing increased and incident command is back to meeting twice weekly. She said that in Washington there is currently no J&J vaccine available, so 9/13 is the employee deadline for the first Pfizer vaccination. Group 5 is confident about the election process.

**HSC-6:** Eric Camp said Group 6 reviewed two OARS reports and expect an increase in OARS reports when students return. He said their election coordinator, an appointed member, is leaving for a new job and they hope to find someone else from the Dean’s Office with access to all departments.

**HSC-7:** Martin Arroyo reported Allyson had the nomination Catalyst survey approved and it will be distributed this week.

**HSC-8:** Chris Barrett reported that they reiterated the heat exposure information for summer, welcomed a new member, and decided to use Zoom for the remainder of 2021. They are still investigating strategies for handling guests on campus, including those living with homelessness and other members of the public walking on campus. They’re collecting nominees for the election.

**HSC-9:** Sheila Prusa reported that Group 9 reviewed OARS reports and are awaiting approval from the Dean’s Office of their election plan.

**HSC-10:** David Zuckerman reported that the heat/smoke speaker was too popular to join them. David mentioned an interesting OARS report describing a fall in a walk-in freezer on a boat. He said that while there is a “locked-in” alarm in the freezer, it was set too high on the wall for someone on the floor to reach. This will be changed next time the boat is in port. Stephanie Harrington, Election Coordinator, and her assistant Jessica, have already reached out to Administrators for help with nominations.

Erin interjected that Katia’s office will send out a letter to HSC Executive Sponsors about the elections and advise them about the process. She also indicated that the Chairs may reach out to the Executive Sponsors to verify that all departments are being represented.
6. **Faculty Senate and Union Reports**
   
   Not present.

7. **ShakeAlert, Washington State Early Warning System**

   Bill Steele of UW's Pacific Northwest Seismic Network said ShakeAlert, the earthquake early warning system, has been operating on the west coast for six years. They are working to develop communications and automated actions for utilities, schools, and others. They are currently putting together a program at UW utilizing these capabilities.

   Gabriel Lotto, also of Pacific Northwest Seismic Network, described that ShakeAlert is a collaboration between UW, other universities, and the USGS. It uses more than 1200 seismometers to rapidly detect early earthquake waves, then calculates location and magnitude, and sends alerts to people and facilities seconds to 10s of seconds before an earthquake arrives. ShakeAlert public alerting went live in Washington this May, via Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA, like Amber Alerts) and on all Android phones.

   Gabriel said ShakeAlert can be used to trigger customized automated actions, e.g. recall elevators, shut off water and gas valves, activate generators, slow machinery, or make public announcements. They hope UW will implement automated actions and become an example for the west coast. He said other universities have implemented: alerting police officers, hospital staff, facilities management, or other critical staff; or notifying the whole community. He said other examples of its use include slowing down experiments in high energy physics labs, protecting uninterrupted power supplies, or unlocking electronic doors.

   Bill said they've worked mostly with UW Medicine at multiple locations, looking at communication and tying into PA systems automatically. They've also considered how to reduce the chance of biological or chemical material releases, how to spin down the big magnets in radiology, and how to safely communicate to surgeons in the OR. He said a November symposium for west coast hospitals will refresh the momentum interrupted by COVID.

   Bill said they have also introduced these ideas to the Office of Animal Welfare, UW Facilities, Crisis Communications, EH&S, and UWIT, and plan to speak with HFS. They are creating a campus-wide committee to address the scope of earthquake early warning actions and connect to relevant services like Crisis Communications. They want to work with all departments to find ways to implement ShakeAlert to protect staff and students and critical research.

   Carmen asked how ShakeAlert might be integrated in earthquake drills or the Great WA ShakeOut. Bill said they have a special ShakeOut message planned with some school districts.

   Denise asked whether any school districts or companies have tied ShakeAlert to their supply chain to ensure they have extra fuel or mitigation supplies. Bill said Boeing has a supply chain
database with all facilities and vendors and they would like to integrate ShakeAlert with such a system.

Liz asked whether there would be a ShakeAlert to her phone for the Great ShakeOut on October 21st. Bill said they would not use the WEA to test all phones. Currently if there is a significant earthquake nearby all Android phones will automatically be alerted, and the WEA system will push to all cellphones that haven't shut off government messaging, but there may be delays. In the future anyone with the app will be notified of nearby earthquakes.

Denise asked whether ShakeAlert might eventually replace a mechanical device as the seismic shutoff valve for fuel tanks? Bill said it can automatically actuate a valve and that it is being done by water and sewer utilities to protect reservoirs.

Bill suggested folks contact Gabriel and Bill with any ideas on how to use ShakeAlert at UW.

8. The Great Washington ShakeOut
Our own Steve Charvat described the Great Washington ShakeOut, which will be Thursday October 21st at 10:21am. He said this annual exercise of basic earthquake preparedness has occurred on the west coast for ten years and gone international. He said that it's always the 3rd Thursday in October, and that there are over 800k participants registered in WA this year. He said that it is free to sign up and there are resources available.

Steve said the message is simple: Drop, Cover, and Hold On when you feel the earth shaking, UW has participated since 2009, the last five years including our full stress test of the UW Alert system across all three campuses. Participation is voluntary, by college, unit, building, classroom, etc. With building management approval, you might be able to announce it over your PA system, or you might use a bullhorn. He said practice “Drop, Cover, & Hold On” to improve your muscle memory. UWEM has an Earthquakes resources page, refreshed annually.

Bill asked about access to the UW buildings’ PA systems, which are part of fire safety systems. Steve said there is not one central way to broadcast from all building PA systems. Steve said the Crisis Communications team can override the PA system on some buildings, but it takes great effort and UWEM would like to automate it more. He said UW will have the annual Indoor Alert test later this Fall.

In the past Sonia said Bioengineering in W.H. Foege North conducted a practice drill, where they were able to speak over the PA with UW Facilities' assistance (note: limited UWF personnel available). She said they announced the pretend earthquake and advised to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”; then after the “shaking” stopped, proceeded with an evacuation drill. She said that before the evacuation they placed four signs in random places on each floor of the building, indicating a pretend chemical spill, a door that wouldn't open, a vertical crack in wall, and a horizontal crack in a wall. Once everyone was outside of the building, they tracked what information filtered to the evacuation wardens. It was an exercise in building muscle memory.
to look for these things as you evacuate. Evacuation directors need that information after a big earthquake since occupants may not be allowed back in until the ATC-20 team clears the building.

Sonia verified that there will be a UW Alert on 10/21. Steve confirmed that they will be conducting an annual stress test of the system. Steve said there may be latency issues with pushing the alert to all three campuses.

Steve said that three ATC-20 teams will conduct their annual practice on campus on Tuesday September 28. ATC-20 teams are presently led by KC Chen and were established after the Nisqually earthquake to rapidly assess the structural status of buildings.

9. **Ex Officio Reports**

**Emergency Management:** During his presentation, Steve mentioned that the June 2021 heat wave was a deadly natural disaster, with hundreds of deaths and reports still coming in. This type of event may be part of Washington's future and will require additional collaborations with UWEM.

Steve mentioned that UWEM activates for every football game.

**DEOHS:** Rick Gleason reported that the 70th annual [Governor’s Industrial Safety and Health Conference](#) will be remote rather than in person this September 28 through October 20.

**AGO:** Nancy Gwin had nothing to report.

**Claim Services:** Ken Nielsen had nothing to report.

**UW Bothell:** Allyson reported they will host a Husky Coronavirus Test site at the end of the month. They also coordinated a vaccine pop-up clinic on the 27th and hope to schedule another in October to help people meet compliance deadlines.

10. **EH&S Updates: L&I**

Erin McKeown reported that there are no new Labor & Industry compliance investigations to report at this time. She said we await the outcome of appeals for violations at Harborview, UWMC Montlake, UWMC Northwest, and the Eastside Specialty Clinic.

**EH&S Updates: General**

Erin announced EH&S job openings: two Lab Safety Specialist temporary positions, and one Web Computing Specialist temporary position. She said we have recent changes in staffing at EH&S including a new COVID-19 nurse from Hall Health, Maija Brissey; Bob Calnan was promoted to manager of the Fume Hood and Biosafety Cabinet programs, and Alex Hagen was promoted to manager of the Lab Safety Inspection program.
Denise said EH&S is very busy with COVID updates.

11. Good of the Order
   Carmen asked for any comments for the good of the order. There were none.

12. Adjourn
   U-Wide Chair Carmen Parisi adjourned the meeting early at 2:07 pm.