

**Queen's University Library
Joint Health and Safety Committee**

DATE: Sept. 8, 2022

TIME: 9:30 AM

CHAIR: N. Petri / **MINUTES:** D. Conner

Committee Present: Gillian Akenson (QUFA), Dianne Conner (Co-chair, CUPE 1302), Samira Dean (Management) Ken Hernden (Management), Kiko Kellway (CUPE 1302), Nancy Petri (Chair, Management), Emily Xu (USW).

Guests: Mark Asberg (Management), Dan Langham (Director EH&S), Shaun Baddeley (Facilities Maintenance Coordinator)

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes – June 8, 2022
3. Business Arising

COVID update:

D. Langham noted that EHS watched for updates over the summer and there were no changes and while Public Health had not recommended any change to masking mandates (no longer required), there has been an alteration to the isolation guidelines. The approach is now that of an all-respiratory illness, meaning if an individual is symptomatic, they are encouraged to stay home and return to work based on symptom resolution (i.e., isolate till symptoms improve, return in 24 hours). The seQure app will be updated, and there is still a request to mask for 10 days beyond a positive test or symptom onset. (SeQure app is still available to use as a screening tool.) Campus operating guidelines page will house updated information and signage for doors will also reflect. It is noted that campus is mask-friendly, that those with private offices or cubicles can request others to mask before entering and signage was provided for those who wished to use it. N. Petri noted that masks will be made available at service desks. Per the University's update (<https://www.queensu.ca/covidinfo/covid-19-guidelines-ahead-fall-term-start>) the proof of vaccination status is not required to attend activities on campus, with the understanding it may be reinstated on short notice, depending on changes to public health guidelines. Deans are advising their faculties that it is important to screen for symptoms and stay home if ill.

Regarding the air purifiers, there was continuing discussion about filter changes. Facilities provides preventive maintenance and are automatically prompted to change them, performing monthly checks. D. Langham advised if units aren't working, FIXIT should be contacted. N. Petri stated to submit requests through QUL (via S. Baddeley). G. Akenson stated there are still problems in Douglas Library regarding portable units being turned off. It has been determined stronger

messaging needs to be used to keep them turned on and N. Petri confirmed there are stickers requesting they stay turned on. S. Baddeley pointed out that if more is required than just turning them on, this should be reported/performed by Facilities.

4. Other/New Business

Core drilling in Jordan, carpet to be relaid in 1923 Reading Room. There are 10 purifiers, 3 of which are not working presently.

Re-opening 1923 Reading Room: M. Asberg attended the meeting and advised that after many months of consultation with Facilities, Environmental Health & Safety, VP Finance and Admin, the Provost, and Public Health, the 1923 Reading Room would re-open in mid-October. Ventilation is one of many mitigations, as the location is considered a unique heritage space that comes with the challenges of an older site. Because it is not considered a “high risk” environment (per COVID), it will be mask-friendly but with no physical distancing required. M. Asberg noted its use is different than a classroom situation, that it is a quiet study space and no events would be held there. There is still cleaning to be done, furniture moved. It was suggested that regular walkarounds could ensure that purifiers are kept on.

G. Akenson inquired about compliance issues regarding masking requests in private offices/cubicles, and what path to follow if people do not comply. D. Langham noted this would require situational decision-making and if there is an escalation, it should be reported to supervisors and/or campus security.

Health and Safety inspection schedule has been haphazard of late and all are reminded to perform them as scheduled.

5. Safety Officer’s Report

There were two accidents, no lost-time or physicians consulted. K. Hernden suggested a flatbed cart be made available to move items to/from locations when van is not available.

6. Reports from Members

K.Hernden noted Kathleen Ryan Hall is dirty, they are submitting requests via QUL. N. Petri confirmed this is the best way to monitor. S. Baddeley advised he has spoken to Facilities about cleaning and there appears to be some relief, some improvement.

D.Conner: will inspect Bracken Library with K. Hernden.

S.Dean: nothing to report

G.Akenson: nothing to report

K.Kellway: nothing to report

E.Xu: nothing to report
N.Petri: nothing to report

Next meeting
Oct. 25, 2022, 9:00 AM