

HEALTH & SAFETY COUNCIL

September 16th, 2020, 3:00 PM

In Attendance: Jennifer Serne (Faculty Senate), Katie Litzenberger (Environmental Health & Safety), Ian Seiler (Classified PSE), Mark Young (College Safety), Otto Bach (Classified Non-Rep), Jerald Dougherty (College Safety), Wendi Hembree (Operations), Kathy Johnson (Human Resources), Vince Foley (Facilities), Shane Scott (Facilities), Robert Cepeda (Emergency Management), Patrick Coffey (Exempt representative), Makenna Thuringer (student rep), and Jeffrey Penick (Faculty Senate)

Called to order at 3:00 PM.

I. Action Items

- a. Approval of minutes from August 19th, 2020
Ian Seiler made the motion to approve the minutes. Vince Foley seconded the motion. Minutes approved.
- b. Review of Campus Incidents
No new incidents to review.

II. Discussion/Presentation Items

- a. Air Quality Discussion

Classes were canceled Monday because of poor air quality and normal campus staff continued to work. The AQI (Air Quality Index) level was at Maroon/Hazardous zone (301+) when classes were canceled. This decision was made to minimize people from being outside. We are in wildfire season and the peak is yet to come. Today, the AQI is in the Red/Unhealthy zone (151-200). When AQI levels hit 201 or above (Purple/Very Unhealthy), administrators look at closing classes. Evaluations happen daily and discussions take place every morning during poor air quality. For staff/faculty who continue to work on campus, a stock of N95 masks, that must be fit-tested, are in supply specifically for smoke in the valley. If a staff member cannot work in smoke, they are to reach out to their supervisor or HR for accommodations.

Indoor air quality is not tested regularly. Air filters are checked regularly in building mechanical systems. Outside air intakes are closed off when the AQI is high, which lowers the air-change rate.

CWU Alerts are sent in the morning via an emergency call tree that begins meeting at 4:30 AM so that decisions can go out by 7:55 AM. All employees are encouraged to check their contact information to ensure the correct mobile number is listed and they have not opted-out of RAVE alerts.

Robert Cepeda meets weekly with a group of individuals from WA/OR who are involved in DNR, NW Service, and Public Health, to look at air forecasting, impacts to COVID, and more topics. The goal is to get as accurate picture as possible to disseminate information based on patterns in models.



b. Requesting Changes to CWU Fall Opening Plans

Fall Opening plans were written with good intentions and a lot of thoughtful work from many people. These plans are fluid. As they are being implemented in work and class environments, there are some gaps or unpractical applications. Some faculty and staff are looking for a platform to voice suggestions and/or concerns about the plans. Emergency Management is responsible for after-action review of COVID, which won't take place until after the incident is over (2021 or later). They will look at best practice for mitigation and response, and strengths/weaknesses of response. The COVID task force is also reporting on these items.

Concerns can be emailed to EHS (LitzenbergerC@cwu.edu) or Emergency Management (CepedaR@cwu.edu). Both of these units continue to meet with the Project Management Office and administration, and they will look at how to combine suggestions and recommendations with after-action reviews.

Questions/concerns can be directed to EHS for now and a possible webform will be developed for safety concerns and recommendations to be heard.

c. Contact Tracing

Faculty member, Amie Wojtyna, is working with the Kittitas County Health Department as liaison. They are taking on figuring out logistics for potential contact tracing for the university and county. Robert Cepeda, Emergency Management, is also involved. Cepeda was called to active duty with the WA State Department of Health to handle contact tracing.

Council member expressed concern about contact tracing logs not being kept. The Chemistry Dept was asked to stop keeping logs of students location tracing. Potential privacy and HIPPA issues prevent the suggested logging of contact tracing. Any concerns regarding this Public Health crisis should be turned into Dr. Shawnté Elbert and Dr. Holsey so they can address it with Dr. Larson.

During any crisis, communication has always been problematic. A webform can have an effective platform/mechanism for people's concerns to be heard and for issues to be discussed with task force.

ACTION: Katie will develop a template for the council to review and provide feedback and potentially be posted to the EHS website.

ACTION: The council will review each month the list of open questions/concerns submitted via the webform, cases closed, and cases under review.

d. Campus Safety Survey

Jennifer put together common and potential issues from the report. Will table to discuss at length for next month.

e. Council Membership

Makenna Thuringer has been added as student representative. The council is still seeking a WFSE rep to fill a vacancy. The timing of the meeting (3:00 p.m.) might be a barrier to having a rep since their shifts end at 2:30 or 3:00 p.m. A survey will be sent out to council members for potential new times.

III. For the Good of the Order

- a. A big thanks to Vince Foley, Central Stores, and the custodial team for ordering and deploying hundreds of thousands of dollars in COVID supplies, despite the frustration and delays with the current supply chain for face coverings and hand sanitizer.

Concluded at 3:48 PM.

Next Virtual Meeting 10/21/20 at 3:00 pm.