

**Faculty of Science and School of Nursing  
Health & Safety Committee MINUTES  
April 16th 2012**

**Attendance January to June, 2012**

**Grad Student: Carmen Tattersfield unable to make Winter Semester meetings**

Meeting dates and times →			Jan 16	Feb 13	Mar 12	April 16	May 14	June 11	2011-2012 Members
Anderson	Debby	Nursing	☐	☐	☐	☐			
Bladon	Kevin	NRS	☐	☐	☐	P			
Chan	Janine	Resp/ Chair	☐	☐	☐	☐			
Fardy	Carolynne	Micro	☐	☐	☐	P			
Jyrkkanen	Stacey	OH&S	☐	■	■	☐			
Karpluk	Janice	Admin	P	P	P	P			
Klein	Ken	Geology	P	P	P	P			
Larsen	Karl	Grad Studies							
Maurits	Gordon	OHS	☐	☐	☐	☐			
Noyes	Heather	Resp	☐	■	P	☐			
Prescott	Walter	ARET/OM	reinstated	☐	P	■			
Purdy	Susan	Bio	☐	☐	☐	■			
Reed	Norm	Chem	☐	☐	☐	P			
Robinson	Lesley	Math	■	■	☐	☐			
Schumacher	Janie	U Prep	☐	■	☐	☐			
Walczak	Sonia	AHT	P	P	P	P			
Weremczuk	George	Physics	■	■	■	☐			
Donna Dallas: Minutes			☐	☐	☐	☐			
Comments									

☐=Present      P= Proxy received      ■=absent

**A. Adoption of Agenda**

**B. Adoption of past Minutes (March 2012)**

**GUEST: Warren Asuchak (spoke to Item 3 on agenda)**

This visit with Warren (Facilities) was to address issues pertaining to staff/faculty expectations for cleaning performed by the Janitorial staff, repeated lack of continuity in the cleaning done by the Janitorial Staff and existing cleaning standards at TRU that are part of the janitorial contract with the University.

Please see the link below from the Facilities website for cleaning schedules and the attachment of cleaning standards:

<http://www.tru.ca/facilities/coreservices/custodial.html>

Warren's major concerns for a "clean and healthy workplace" focus on the preventing the spread of germs and ensuring everyone has access to hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper and clean surfaces to work on in all offices/labs/lecture rooms. These items are a **MUST EXIST/ MUST BE STOCKED AT ALL TIMES** in our building. **Faculty/staff should and are encouraged to report any issues related to these items to the Janitor (email: janitor) and cc: Warren Asuchak so that he is aware of the issue, he can continue to track the response of our Janitorial service and we can have a consistently healthy work/study environment in our building.**

Specifics related to desktop cleaning: S337 is used by the RT Program 20 hours/week and discrepancies in regular cleaning began to show up and were reported to Warren. Discussions w/ Tammy revealed that

desktops should be cleaned 3 times / week and in between the Janitorial cleaning, Warren will make available a new system that is being tried out that involves ozonating tap water and using it as a cleaning agent. It is being used in industry now and is cheaper/safer/ ultra effective than past cleaning agents that also required gloves to be worn to protect the user. He did meet with the Janitorial Manager: Tammy and showed her how we wanted it cleaned (he actually physically came in to the Science building and showed her), and the contract requires that the desktops be cleaned 3 times a week. The ozonator unit will be on trial in S337 for the new academic year and the RT students will have access to the product and can wipe their desktops down as needed in between the 3x/week Janitorial schedule. Warren will demonstrate the unit to Janine prior to the product being used in S337.

With increased numbers of people in the building (Staff, Faculty, Students), discussion occurred around awareness of capacity issues that create some of issues around cleaning standards that have occurred. Some examples (1) he discussed ensuring there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> soap dispenser in high traffic washrooms so that we always have a “backup supply” of soap and minimize the chances that we would “run out” (2) and the awareness amongst staff/faculty that some of the older rugs will always look dirty b/c of their age even though they are being steam cleaned on a regular basis according to the cleaning schedule.

Warren is looking at getting a bar code put in the washrooms for future, then the student could scan/email it and we could have a sign that states “help us keep this area clean and stocked - please contact us”.

Warren also told Tammy that he wants more microfibre clothes used (they clean better) and he has met with Tammy for more check-ups. They will continue to meet and they will submit to me a checklist (every week) that I’ve made up for them (attached).

### **C. Business arising from past minutes:**

#### **1. Facilities**

##### **a. Anti Idling Update: JOHSC discussion/Action: Sue Purdy**

- JOHSC meeting discussions (where intake vent locations are on campus for all buildings) to help with optimal sign location. **ACTION:** Susan to report from JOHSC

**Tabled** – Susan not here

##### **b. AHT and Hearing Impaired Signal for Active Fire Alarm: Closed now**

- **Gord:** Lincoln said he was looking into the cost, however, he did receive an email from Sonja that it’s really not an issue anymore, that student is graduating in May

#### **2. Invasive species waste disposal: Ongoing**

- **Update:** Kevin (NRS) disposal of invasive species

**Tabled** - Kevin not here

#### **3. Science Building Janitorial Cleaning**

**Action:** Warren Asuchak to attend April meeting – see above for Warren’s comments

#### **4. Ceiling tiles (Walter) and T-Bar (OM 2740 & 2652)**

**Action:** Gordon to report

**Tabled to next meeting**

#### **5. Gas shut offs in 1<sup>st</sup> year Chem labs S269 (Norm): structural issues preventing full gas shutoff.**

**Action:** Gord to report to committee

**Tabled to next meeting**

#### **6. Archived Business: Field Trip Documents and TRU Legal**

**Action:** Steve Joly to report

**Tabled to next meeting** - Janine did email him (some things too confidential to be asking students) – he said he’ll be talking to Laurel Wale, TRU Legal, this week.

## D. New Business

**Grad Studies and Field trip issues:** this came up in our last meeting as there didn't seem to be a specific safety procedure that was being followed by Grad students leaving campus for field work (currently our undergrad students participating in field trips must fill out the Field Trip documents that are located on the Science Website).

To ensure continuity in safety practices for our students (undergrad or grad) Andrew Mackay and Will Garrett-Petts were contacted by Janine as they are now overseeing all TRU Grad Students.

Andrew MacKay response follows: (dated April 16, 2012 to Janine)

*Here is the situation as it sits, today. The short answer is there is a gap in coverage:*

- *A student registered in a course or doing a practicum in B.C. is covered by the province-wide student accident insurance plan. However the insurers have stated that only when a student doing field research that is a direct requirement of the course s/he is registered in is covered. They have also stated that this does not apply to graduate students doing field research.*
- *In some provinces, graduate students doing field research are covered by WCB, but not in B.C. That's because B.C. has deemed that they are not employees of the university.*
- *Some universities, like UBC for example, have optional extended health insurance plans for graduate students to cover this gap. We do not.*
- *There is also a separate but related issue: liability insurance. Private land owners often want a waiver of liability or proof of liability insurance before letting a student onto their land, and we don't have this in place.*

*I have been working on both of these issues for months, but we're not there, yet. This is quite complicated, legally, so TRU's Legal Affairs is working to help us come up with a solution. I'll nudge them again to see where they're at. I'll keep you in the loop as this evolves.*

*Regards , Andrew*

**Action:** Stacey will be following up and will be meeting with Grad Studies and Researchers regarding this and working alone.

### **Announcements for Carolynne:**

- The Day of Mourning Ceremony for those killed in the workplace will be held April 28 at 6 pm at St Andrews on the Square
- Please join Phillip Legg, Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC staff representative for policy and communications, for the following presentation:

Mental Stress in the Workplace - Thursday, April 19, 2012 - Science Room S373 - 12:15-1:20

"Mental stress has become an all too familiar part of the modern workplace. From having to "do more with less" at their workplace to balancing home and work life demands, workers are feeling the pressures of stress and its impacts on their lives. Increasingly, unions and union advocates are looking for more effective ways to deal with the mental stress in the workplace including changes to laws and policies that govern workplace health and safety. This presentation will discuss some of the significant changes that have taken place both provincially and nationally and talk about what unions can do to improve conditions for their members."

Sponsored by FPSE and the TRUFA Occupational Health & Safety Committee.

## E. Reports

a. **Health and Safety : no report**

b. **Incidents: no report given**