

UNBC JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 29, 2022

****Zoom Meeting** 3:00pm to 4:00pm**

Participants:

Marlene Cannon, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Debbie Roberts, (Employer Rep)
Ron Camp II, (Employer Rep)
David Claus, (Employer Rep)
Kerry Roberts, (Employer Rep)
Christa Florell, (Faculty Employee Rep 1)
Malgorzata (Mal) Kaminska, (Faculty Employee Rep 2)–Co-Chair
Saphida Migabo, (Faculty Employee Rep) *Alternate*
Shannon MacKay, (CUPE Employee Rep 1)
Peter Popovic, (CUPE Employee Rep 2)

Committee Resource:

Jennifer Skaar – (Recording Secretary)

Guests:

Mark Groulx, Assc Prof ENPL
Nancy Harris, Spinal Cord Injury BC
Alex Castley, Asst Director HR

Absent:

Sarah Elliott, (Employer Rep)- Co-Chair
Aaron Olsen, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Sean Kinsley, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Twylla Hamelin, (Employer Rep)
Trevor Smith, (Employer Rep) *Alternate*
Siraj ul Islam, (Faculty Employee Rep) *Alternate 2*
Aneta Douglass, (CUPE Employee Rep 1) *Alternate*
Alan Alger, (CUPE Employee Rep 2) *Alternate*
Vacant, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 1)
Vacant, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 1) *Alternate*
Narayan Koirola, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 2)
Vacant, (CUPE 2278 Employee Rep 2) *Alternate*

Committee Resource:

Tammy Klassen-Ross, (Positional Resource)
Conan Ma, Chemical Safety Officer (Resource)
Natalie de Bruyn, (Positional Resource)
Vacant– Health & Safety Manager, (Resource)

Meeting Co-Chair: Mal Kaminska

A. Traditional Territory Acknowledgement- Mark Groulx

B. Chair Comments

- Mal welcomed guest speakers, Mark and Nancy. Welcomed Alex Castley joining with Kerry Roberts in HR.
- The Faculty Association recently held their vote for members on the Committee and Christa Florell will be remaining in her role as the FA representative and Siraj ul Islam will be the alternate FA representative. Congratulations and welcome.

C. AGENDA:

- No changes or additions to the agenda - accepted.

D. GUEST SPEAKERS – Mark Groulx & Nancy Harris

- Mark acknowledged they were very grateful for the invitation extended by Sarah Elliott to speak today and knows that accessibility is an increasing priority here at UNBC.
- Mark and Nancy are joining the meeting to discuss the 'Nature for All' research project they are working on, and how it plays into the accessibility in practice work that Nancy is doing through Access BC.
- Introduction of our guest speakers:
 - Dr. Mark Groulx, Associate Professor at UNBC and recently certified registered professional planner in the School of Planning and Sustainability in the Planning Program.
 - Nancy Harris is a liaison for Spinal Cord Injury BC. Nancy's work is broad across the Province and she works closely with tourism associations and local governments to work collaboratively on access and inclusion. We have done some work with UNBC and excited to keep that momentum going.
 - Round table introduction of the JH&S Committee members present.
- Mark provided a presentation on some of the work we have been doing. Mark noted that a good deal of the context of what they are doing in 'Nature for All' research project is on legislative changes around accessibility. In 2019 federal accessibility legislation came in resulting in many changes in Federal spaces including outdoor Federal parks because outdoor spaces are a big emphasis. In 2021 we had fall along legislation modelled in a similar spirit, if not process and policy, at the Provincial level here in BC.

- The 'Nature for All' project is housed here at UNBC and has been built out of an 8year partnership and relationship between Mark and other collaborators, but particularly Access BC for which Nancy is a leader, and the project is an initiative of Spinal Cord BC.

Access BC has been really instrumental in convening a partnership network across our Province with a lot of the focus involving Tourism BC. The project is a shared mission working to bring the expertise and experiences to the table to advance inclusivity in some of our tourism and our outdoor recreation spaces in BC.

What 'Nature for All' tries to do at a high-level sense can only be described as an ethical comparative to promote an inclusive society to ensure that all people in our Province, visiting or otherwise, have access to wide and rich areas of natural spaces.

With the accessibility legislation there is an emphasis on accessibility standards and there is more to come in terms of how we design infrastructure and programs. Key areas of particular interest are trails because we are focused on outdoor spaces, but there are many service areas where standards are being developed.

Mark acknowledged the technology that has been developed through our partnerships. Information from accessibility standards were put into a digital pilot data collection tool that can run on any smart phone or tablet. It is a simple tool that will allow you to go anywhere out in nature, collect and measure anything related to the infrastructure, (trail width, slope and all different kinds of things), even without Wi-Fi. This data is then connected in through an online platform or dashboard and database allowing us to visualize in real time, all of the accessibility standards data. A key goal is to create user friendly tools that reduce the friction of doing accessibility standards work, and to improve some of the efficiencies and workflows for the people who are trying to make accessibility improvements in their jurisdictions and looking for tools to support that work. These tools have been taken out in the field over the last 2 -3 years for testing while accessibility auditing is being done in outdoor spaces. Our hope is that others will engage and use these open-sourced tools to help grow that accessibility data base with us.

It goes without saying that our Province has an incredibly rich endowment of natural spaces housing critical ecologies and biodiversity. Unfortunately, within research that examines human nature contact and its outcome, it equally goes without saying that despite those immense resources for health and wellbeing, they are not equally accessible to all individuals. There are sources of exclusion in many of our outdoor tourism and recreation spaces.

Management decisions will need to ultimately think about how to promote conservation and sustainability alongside the rights of persons with disabilities. Some strategic infrastructure investments will need to occur to implement legislation changes in support of becoming a barrier free society by 2040.

Mark concluded with some statistics on the pilot data collection app and collaboration with other stake holders for data sharing.

Mark and Nancy opened the floor for questions:

-Comment: Met some of the students who expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to work on this real-world project. You have done great work with the partnerships and collaboration and it is a great benefit to our students. Nancy has nothing but respect for the students who have worked on the project.

-Question: You are making the ability to crowd source new information, will there be a ground truthing or anyway of verifying the data other than someone revisiting the site and inputting new information. Has that been built into it? Mark indicated that it is not intended as a wide consumer facing application it is meant to have a narrower deployment -those involved in

infrastructure and decision making. Narrower in scope will come with opportunities for capacity and training development that Access BC delivers that Nancy can speak to. Nancy noted that they want it easy to use by the most amount of people without having to out-source to a contractor. Allow more community groups and people to be involved in what is needed. Comment: Any physician can subscribe to an initiative by the Federal Government that is also supported here in BC called Park Rx (PaRx) – a prescription for nature program. This allows the physician to prescribe a pass to individuals who could not normally afford the cost to visit parks that have fees. Unfortunately, we know that patients who are disabled are disproportionately disadvantaged financially. Is there a way to access the information in the future that would allow physicians to know which parks would be best suited for patients. Mark noted outside of the scope of the work they are doing, there has been accessibility audits completed through BC Parks. If you visit the BC Parks accessibility, you can get a page that includes a lot of information about each site. Something they are doing in partnership with BC Parks is work on a pilot project that will use the accessibility data to create information from a visitors' perspective which will include information on the accessibility as well as destination amenity information.

Mark welcomed people to reach out if they are interested in having ongoing conversations. Big plug for Dr Robinson's initiative in leading the work being done on campus for inclusion and accessibility. Nancy added that she welcomes the opportunity to work with UNBC on becoming more accessible and inclusive.

Mal thanked Mark and Nancy before they exited the meeting.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 25, 2022

- e.1) No changes or corrections. Motion to accept Kerry and Debbie– All in favour, approved.

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

f.1) Sub-Committee project updates- Mal

Group 1: David - Group has not had time to meet, nothing to report at this time.

Group 2: Debbie -Group is waiting for a replacement for Lydia and asked if there was news on a replacement for her position. Kerry confirmed that interviews for the position are scheduled for next week.

Group 3: Kerry – Group has not had time to meet.

Group 4: Kerry – Group has not had time to meet but did confirm that the Bullying & Harassment policy review was back from the lawyer. Kerry will be presenting it to group 4 and then the group will bring back to the JH&S Committee.

Group 5: Mal – Group has not met and are waiting on a replacement for Lydia as well as Kristi -who is now on leave. Kerry advised that Guneet has taken over for Kristi in her absence and asked Mal to forward Guneet an invite.

f.2) Fire Safety Plan and Housekeeping update on WIRL - David

-The Wood Innovation Research Lab (WIRL) building had a routine inspection from the fire department who identified some deficiencies most of which were addressed by Facilities. There were 1 or 2 deficiencies that had to do with the operations of the lab which included sawdust in the lab. The follow up is going well and procedure updates are being worked by with Maik at WIRL. The fire department is pleased with the progress.

G. Incident Report Summaries

g.1) Review of the Worksafe and other classified incident reports for First Aid Incidents. Safety Investigations: & Other Reports sent to members for review. – Marlene

-There was no incidents or investigations to report.

Comment: was involved with the employee injury incident noted under the Other OHS reports and feels that the description on the report is misleading, the incident was not as serious as the report describes and wanted to clarify for the Committee.

Kerry noted that they will be conducting an investigation for this incident and asked for a volunteer from the Committee employee and employer reps. Mal and Kerry volunteered.

Kerry advised the Committee that while Sarah is on leave, he and Alex will be assisting Jennifer with the WorkSafe BC, and Marlene will be reporting to David for Security & Parking.

f.2) **Review of Respect in the Workplace Investigation Statistics – Kerry**

-Kerry advised there was 1 incident under the respect in the workplace policy which just concluded.

H. Inspection Updates

g.1) **Building Inspection Updates – Marlene**

-Marlene had to step out of the meeting, Mal asked if Jennifer had an update on building inspections. Jennifer does not believe that there have been any further updates.

g.2) **Lab Inspection Report – Jennifer for Conan**

-Mal noted that neither Tammy or Conan were able to attend today however Jennifer has an update she received from Conan. Jennifer advised that Conan indicated that lab inspections are continuing on schedule and there have not been any major incidents to report.

I. New Business - None

J. Round Table Discussion:

- David indicated that fire drills are to be conducted annually and this responsibility has traditionally sat with the Safety Manager. David wanted to check with this group to find out if anyone had been tasked with this if no, David is prepared for Facilities to take over the fire drills at this time. Marlene advised that she was asked to take over the monthly day care fire drills as but she does not know who was assigned the other building drills. As no one else came forward, David would like to work with Marlene and get a fire drill schedule set.
Question: Is it possible to set up fire marshals in buildings? David indicated that there is a different process here and that process is different for a fire drill as opposed to a fire alarm. For fire drills we utilize floor sweepers who make sure people are exiting the building and recording if there are people who did not exit etc. For an actual fire alarm, sweepers are not used, it is each person's responsibility to get themselves safely out of the building. Facilities does have staff with radios who man the exit doors in the event of an alarm.
Question: is there anyone assigned to helping people with disabilities to exit the building. David advised the short answer is yes and they are the fire department.
Question: What do we tell people with mobility issues – go to the stairwell and wait for the fire department? David confirmed that it would depend on the building and every person should be familiar with the fire safety plan for the building or buildings they frequent. Some of the buildings do have areas of refuge in stairwells but some of our buildings do not which would make the stairwell not a safe area to be.
Comment: Found a few fire safety exit placards that are now incorrect due to renovations. There are other examples where the room numbers are wrong, but the exit map is correct. David did receive that information and updates are being done.
Question: Once the fire safety plan is done, could David provide a presentation to Debbie's group?

David has a project to update the fire safety plan, once that is complete David will bring back to the JH&S Committee and then we can set up a mechanism to disseminate it out to the UNBC community.

Comment: Thanks to David for the project work done on the CJMH/ Admin building walkway.

Question: There was a copy of an email message regarding the earthquake originally sent to the exempt staff, provided to the Committee members. Wondering why this was not sent out to the community when the earthquake occurred? Kerry noted that the message was sent out to the exempt group to task management with the responsibility of conducting checks within their departments. It was decided at the time to send a message out to the exempt group only as the earthquake grade was low. If the preference is for these messages to be sent out by announce message to the UNBC employees, that can be arranged.

Comment: This would be a good idea as most Faculty did not receive this communication.

Comment: Request for next month's meeting as a new business item – would like to discuss creating an academic calendar to highlight events that the JH&S Committee would like to promote or be involved in. These would include events such as the WorkSafe Annual Day of Mourning in April; Red Shirt Day for National Accessibility etc. This will allow us to plan and not miss the opportunity.

Mal asked Jennifer to make a note for next month's agenda.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:13PM

ACTION ITEMS

Item #	Description	Who	Action
1) 19-009	Committee Projects	Individual Project Groups	On Going