Minutes of the Memorial University & Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee (JOHSC) Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

3:00 p.m.
Room: C-2001

Present: Mr. Ian McKinnon, MUN Representative and Co-Chair; Dr. Mark Abrahams, MUN Representative; Ms. Tracey Pittman, MUN Representative; Dr. Stephan Curtis, MUNFA Representative and Co-Chair; Dr. Alan Hall, MUNFA Representative; Ms. Catherine Lawton, MUNFA Representative; Ms. Barbara Battcock, Associate Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Minutes taken by: R. Kelly

1. The Agenda – Dr. Curtis motioned for the agenda approval; Dr. Abrahams moved and Mr. McKinnon seconded the motion.

2. The minutes from the September 20, 2016 meeting were reviewed; Dr. Curtis motioned for approval, Dr. Abrahams moved and Mr. McKinnon seconded the motion.

3. Safety Talk – Workplace Stress: Can be caused by many factors and can impact a person’s overall health and their ability to work safely. Ms. Battcock spoke on the strategies for dealing with stress and that Memorial University have an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) line to call 24 hours per day. More info can be found at the following webpage: http://www.mun.ca/health_safety/training/Safety_Moments/workplace_stress_2016.

4. Update on items “for Action” from September 20, 2016 meeting:
   a) Tier I & III Committee Updates – Mr. McKinnon updated on the continued work re water quality and the ongoing testing. The Water Quality Guide and Terms of Reference for the Water Committee were approved at the Tier I meeting this morning (December 14, 2016). The committee and Facilities Management reviewing the service agreement with their counterparts and are looking at protocols to have water sampling and testing at Health Science Centre.
Facilities Management have been carrying out the testing and the results will be released early in 2017. Ms. Battcock will distribute the Water Quality Guide to this group.

The Tier I committee are recommending that Livyers Loop remain as a one-way street and that the temporary barriers will be replaced with permanent sidewalks. The committee have asked the City to provide safety options re the Elizabeth Avenue exit and the Business building exit onto the Parkway.

b) Incident Management System (MIMS) – Discussion was had on the breakdown of the Annual report by building and Pan University. The report is completed in March by the department of Environmental Health and Safety.

c) Drinking Water Issues – Discussed in the Tier I update Item 4 (a).

d) Update on the Proposed Demolition of the Pedway from the Chemistry to Earth Sciences Buildings – the old pedway will be taken down in May, 2017 and the new one will be completed in June, 2017. All chemicals are transported by auto.

e) MUN’s non-smoking policy – Discussion was had with regards to the challenges of trying to enforce this policy and how other universities are encountering the same issues. The Senior Policy Analyst is reviewing all policies.

5. New Business

i) MUN’s Emergency Response Procedures – Discussion was had about the new app for mobile phones and that not all buildings are equipped with a voice activation notification system. A number of risk assessment training sessions were held in November and that this training may become part of orientation sessions.

ii) Psycho-social Stress and Harassment on campus – Dr. Hall provided a presentation on a Mental Injury toolkit (MIT) for workplace assessment of the psychosocial work environment. It is a survey/questionnaire to assess stress, safety, harassment, offensive behaviours, etc. He talked about the possibility of this item placed on the agenda at a Tier I committee meeting. Ms. Battcock said she will bring it to the Tier I Committee co-chairs attention and for discussion.

iii) Missing Evacuation / Safety Information in Classrooms - Discussion was had regarding this issue, Ms. Battcock indicated that at the beginning of each semester
updated information is placed in classrooms. This info is also available on the mobile app.

6. Other Business - The committee asked Ms. Batcock to discuss with the Associate Director of Emergency Management of generating a report on the types/incidents of violence.

7. Next Meeting

Ian McKinnon
MUN Representative Co-Chair

Stephan Curtis
MUNFA Representative Co-Chair