

**Safety Committee Meeting
Whitman College
May 7, 2020 at 1:00 pm**

Present: Elliot Broze, Paul Dodez, Kendra Golden, John Hopkins (Chair), Tony Ichsan, Bryan Lubbers, Kathleen Hutchison (Secretary), Telara McCullough, Fred Miller, Kathy Rogers, Marvin Viney

Absent: John Eckel, Nicole Redman, Dan Schindler

Approval of Minutes

2/19/2020 meeting minutes approved. Posted on the Safety Committee webpage - <https://www.whitman.edu/environmental-health-and-safety/safety-committee>.

Welcome to our new Physical Plant Services Director, Tony Ichsan, who is joining us for today's committee meeting.

UPDATE ON COLLEGE PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Fred Miller and Tony Ichsan are members on the Emergency Operating Committee (EOC) subgroup which is led by Telara McCullough. Fred shared that the committee has worked through employee issues during the shutdown, and is currently reviewing issues and options for reopening the campus in the new Covid-19 influenced era. The committee is exploring various options from an HR standpoint for all employees, including student employees. The committee is working with various departments and groups across campus to discuss options for reopening in whatever the new normal will be. The committee keeps up with Covid-19 reports in the community, various professional organizations, and keeping tabs on what peer institutions are doing across the country, to help guide and support the administration in making decisions, and creating guidelines and policies for reopening our campus.

Telara shared that the decision making on this committee is guided by direction from state officials. The committee is looking at models that other organizations have put forth for reopening safely, and reviewing Governor Inslee's "Safe Start" document issued May 4, as well as the state's guidance for restarting construction. They are finding common themes in all of the plans (i.e. PPE standards and requirements, protocols for symptomatic individuals and those who test positive, etc.). The plan for reopening the campus will be gradual in order to keep the work environment safe, and keep individuals healthy. The committee is discussing many variables and different scenarios to create guidance for the college, and their recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet for discussion and approval. The timeline is currently unknown, and is dependent on our guidance from state officials.

Telara reports that the committee has submitted a recommendation to the Cabinet that the Safety Committee should be the review point of the approved reopening plan prior to it being published. It is the Safety Committee's responsibility to receive and evaluate workplace health and safety issues reported to them by Whitman employees and to communicate concerns and recommendations to management, as well as communicating safety issues to all employees. Fred shared that EOC will have an announcement on Whitman Today about resources for employees, and the Safety Committee will be on that list.

Kendra is on the EOC Teaching and Learning subgroup which is divided into two working groups: one group is making plans for online instruction this Fall semester, and the other group is making plans for in-person instruction with physical distancing and other safety precautions. The name of the game is flexibility, so groups are brainstorming options and reviewing logistics. John Hopkins and others have been walking around campus to review classroom sizes and furniture, as well as identifying other campus spaces that could be used for in-person instruction.

NEW BUSINESS

Kathy Rogers reported one accident/injury since last meeting. Employee had laceration from a box cutter, and needed stitches at the Emergency Room.

On the agenda for next meeting is review and discussion of Appendix 4 of the Accident Prevention Plan.

NEXT MEETING scheduled Tuesday, June 9, 11:00 am – Noon.