



# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Science & School of Nursing Safety Committee (SHSC)

Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2017 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Room S270

Attendance Aug 2016-June 2017 (X= ✓ = present) (A = absent) (P = proxy rcd.)

Meeting Dates		8 25	9 28	10 26	11 30	12 28	1 26	3 2.	3 30	4 27	5	6.	Notes	
TBD	Math					<b>M E E T I N G  C A N C E L L E D</b>								
Lettinga, Marten	CHAIR Chemistry	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Duggan, Bunny	recorder	A	X	X	A		X	X	X					
Fairman, Peter	Bio-Safety Officer	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Hammer, Trent	Chemistry	X	X	X	X		X	A	X					
Haytham ELMigli	Computing			X	X		X	X	P					
Heather Noyes	Respiratory	X	X	A	A		A	A	A					
Horton, Jane	UPrep	X	X	X	A		A	P	X					
Jyrkkanen, Stacey	Safety & EM	A	A	A	X		X	A	A					
Lucille Anderson	Biology	X	X	A	X		X	X	X					
MacLellan, Dean	RESP			X	X		X	X	P					
McKenzie, Wendy	Nursing	P	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Prescott, Walter	ARET	P	X	X	A		P	P	P					
Purdy, Susan	Biology	X	X	X	A		A	X	A					
Sorensen, Jacque	NRS	X	P	A	A		X	P	P					
Taylor, Colin	Physics	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Urban, Joanna	Micro	A	X	X	X		A	A	A					
Van Wagoner, Nancy	Geology	A	A	X	P		X	P	A					
Walczak, Sonia	AHT	X	P	X	P		X	X	P					
Knowles, Doug	UPrep	A							A					

## 1. Adoption of Agenda

APPROVED AND ADOPTED: Lucille

SECOND: Peter

Changes to agenda: None

## 2. Review of Minutes from March 2, 2017 Meeting

ACCEPTED: Lucille

SECOND: Jane

## 3. Old Business

### (a) Unisex Washroom (Marten)

Nothing to report at this time. Future renovations of Ken Lepin bldg. were touched upon due to the announcement of a new Nursing Building, such as a second elevator. It was suggested that the Unisex Washroom could be created when renovations to the Ken Lepin Building were in planning stage and perhaps an existing washroom could be renovated for this purpose.

**ACTION:** Table until such a time that renovations on the Ken Lepin Building start.

### (b) Door Lock Down/Privacy (Stacey)

Nothing to report at this time. No official announcement re: completion, but door lock down and privacy is in progress. Facilities should be contacted via work orders if new handles have problems – i.e. sticking etc. TABLED

## 4. New Business

### A. Incidents (Stacey J. or Peter F.)

#### **Five incidents to report:**

**a. Broken beaker** - student sustained cuts on both hands. Security was not called, instructor attended to injury. Incident report was filled out. Student contracted an infection and a secondary report had to be filled. Outcome may not have been different if proper procedure was followed. Proper procedure was to for instructor not to perform intuitive first aid, but to call security first, and for security to have student possibly go to the hospital. Any cuts sustained in a lab should be taken seriously due to potential infectious or toxic materials. The Chair of biology sent out memo to staff regarding proper procedures and students' wellbeing.

**b. Custodial staff** – they were observed filling floor buffer with a firehose, firetrucks came and custodian was told not to do this anymore. They usually get a bypass. The incident was addressed, and it should no longer be an issue now.

**c. Microbiology** - technician reported a bio-hazardous waste bag was missing, S.E.M. inquired of contents and determined the bag needed to be pulled from the regular garbage bin. Bag and all contents were located and properly disposed of (autoclaved).

**ACTION:** S.E.M member suggested specific garbage cans be labelled for the custodians, contaminated waste needs to be disposed by proper methods by Faculty. S.E.M member wants to be absolutely sure that such a potentially serious breach will not happen again.

- d. Explosion in the chemistry lab:** Recent testing and repair of Ken Lepin eye wash stations averted a near disaster for a student. . There was an ejection of dichloromethane solvent from a tube (due to carbon dioxide gas evolving from the reaction of hydrochloric acid with some remaining sodium carbonate). Slight burns were contracted by the student to the facial area. When S.E.M personnel arrived, proper procedure for the student's safety had been followed as the student had her face immersed in water under the eye-wash fountain for the duration specified on the MSDS sheet for methylene chloride. Unfortunately, during proper procedure and reporting, wording for the incident may not have been appropriate and interception by media via scanner occurred; media showed up on TRU property. It is felt the avoidance of certain words (e.g. explosion) may have prevented media from becoming alerted and involved. Proper script for first aid procedures and emergency calling needs to be created and shared with faculty. Points such as: before every lab and exercise go over safety procedures with students, keep SDS sheets handy on paper or on a dedicated computer after the lab has started and post the script to follow in each lab-room. The TRU MSDS phone app can also be used. Security should be called immediately as they are trained in first aid and will take over administering the first aid if it has been started. Intuitive first aid is not recommended. Faculty should always review the hazards of the lab.
- e. Rockets** were created by a Chemistry Lab Instructor (Hydrogen-Oxygen). One of the teaching assistant experienced an electric shock after touching the metal counter-top in S261 since the sparking device was grounded to a tap which was in contact with the sink and metal counter-top. As this is a High Frequency generator, no pacemakers should be near it. Trent will put up a sign up concerning pace-makers.

#### **B. Protocol for Incidents in Chemistry Labs (Peter)**

Peter spoke in great detail regarding the recent rash of incidents in the Ken Lepin Building. He stressed that no finger pointing is being made, these incidents are to be used as "learning tools" and also opportunities to teach and tighten up for the protocols for the health and safety of everyone.

#### **ACTION:**

**Peter will be working with instructor Christina Mohr on a script, hopefully ready for the summertime.**

#### **C. Other**

Nursing Building Announcement—A new nursing building is going to be constructed at TRU. Proposed location will be at the current site of Parking Lot L. The current Sim lab is going to stay in the Science Building as it is currently shared with Respiratory Therapy. Received all funding, Parking issues on campus were briefly discussed

A few improvements to the Science Building are underway. John Van Hamme's lab is being renovated in the spring. This may be a good opportunity to address any remaining safety issues. An RFP has gone out for the site preparation of the chemical storage facility (cement work, etc.). The work will start soon.

Safety issues in research lab across from S270 (eye station is currently not working. Peter has put up a sign indicating Out of Order). He suggests faculty ensure the lab next door is accessible in the event of an emergency. A portable eye wash station was brought up, but was decided against as there is not 20 minutes of flushing time which is more often required.. All eye washes have been checked and labelled by Peter in the Ken Lepin Building. Some eye wash stations have pressure issues while others have temperature issues and Peter has labelled them appropriately. Please do not remove the purple tape. Issues are marked as follows: purple tape on the T-joint for temperature issues and on the arm for pressure issues. Please let Peter know if you notice he has missed any stations. Contact with facilities for repairs has been made.

A human placenta used for lab demonstration purposes was left in a sealed container in a Ken Lepin lab room, with the intention of being used by lab classes. Because of a mix-up in dates, it was picked up by the lab coordinator 2 weeks later. The placenta has to be disposed of at the hospital according to proper procedures. SEM was called and disposed of it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

**Next Meeting** Thursday , April 27, S270 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Room S270