



Faculty of Science Safety Committee Meeting

January 10, 2025, ~ 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Dean of Science Boardroom

Attendees:

Dean of Science Office & Meeting Chairperson - Dr. Sam Veres, Dean of Science

Dean of Science Office – Leanne Lucas, Science Safety Advisor

Department of Astronomy and Physics – Dr. Mike Dunlavy

Department of Chemistry - Dr. Jason Masuda, Jennifer Wright

Animal Facility: Caila Henderson

Department of Biology – Dr. David Chiasson

Department of Geology – Mitch Kerr

Human Resources Department – n/a

Facilities Management Department – Pat Farmer

Minute taker – Sam Veres

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 10 am

GENERAL BUSINESS

Call for Agenda Item Additions

Exterior stair well drain.

Minutes from the December 2024 meeting

Items requiring correction on previous minutes:

- Discussion on exterior stairwell drain persistently being slow to drain and concern about potential for resulting flood of basement missed getting included in minutes.
- Action item regarding floor drains: was not specific to Geology; action item was to check with Faculties to see if filling of floor drains building wide should be part of regular maintenance.
- Attendees: Greg Christian mistakenly included in list of attendees.

With the above changes noted, the Minutes were adopted by consent.

BUSINESS ARISING

Floor drains

P. Farmer explained that floor drains associated with emergency shower or eyewash stations are inspected on a regular basis. Other floor drains aren't checked. Departments can periodically add water to any floor drains that they suspect may have gone dry. Typical sign of a floor drain with dry P-trap is sewer gas smell. Adding a small amount of cooking oil following filling with water can help prevent evaporation.

Science Building Exterior Ground Cover

P. Farmer will be following up with Edmonds on this in the Spring. Facilities is also looking at installing additional No Smoking signs in frequently used smoking areas.

Light Sensors

S. Veres has submitted a work order to have the light sensor in the second floor men's washroom of the Science Building serviced.

REPORTS

Safety Advisor Report

Summary of Injury/Incident Reports for Faculty of Science

L. Lucas described the Injury/Incident Reports that had been submitted for Science in November. No necessary follow-up actions on any of the reports presented were noted.

OHS & Wellness Consultant: JOHSC Activity and Information

There were no new JOHSC meeting minutes to review.

NEW BUSINESS

New SWP: SSWP 018: Science Safety Policy

S. Veres described the revisions that had been made to SWP 018 following discussion at the December meeting.

It was noted when the Science Safety Committee undertakes review of a student's behavior as described in 3.8.5 that a student's decision not to provide an in-person statement to the Science Safety Committee should not in and of itself factor into the Committee's judgement on forming a recommendation.

It was also noted that the hyperlink in 3.8.4 was non-functional.

SWP 018 was approved by consent.

OTHER BUSINESS

Science Building Exterior Stairwell Drain

P. Farmer explained that the stairwell drain isn't connected to drainage piping or an engineered drainage bed; it is simply a pipe that terminates in the ground. Consequently, it operates slowly, but it is functional: it does eventually drain water from that area. Despite having several heavy rain events in the past year, the drain has operated sufficiently to prevent the water level in the stairwell rising to the point where it would enter the building's basement. Facilities regularly attends to the stairwell to ensure that it is kept clear of debris (leaves, etc.), and regularly salts in the winter to ensure that it is free of ice, so that the drain can operate properly.

The question of whether the existing drain violates any building codes, or whether it would affect the ability to submit a successful insurance claim on flood damage was raised. P. Farmer did not think that the existing drain presented an issue for either concern.

Meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Dr. Sam Veres
Meeting Chairperson, Faculty of Science Safety Committee
Dean of Science