

**Health and Safety Committee 10
Meeting Minutes**

September 21, 2020 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Ocean Sciences Building 203

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| **Dept/School** | **Member** |  | **Type** | **Box** | **Email** | **\*** |
| SAFS | Jon Wittouck | JW | Elected | 355020 | wittouck | X |
| ATMS | David Warren | DW | Elected | 351640 | dwarren | X |
| ATMS | Hettie Scofield | HS | Appointed | 351640 | hscofiel | X |
| Earthlab | Jessica Nagtalon | JN | Appointed | 355355 | nagtalon | X |
| ESS | Andy Schauer | AS | Elected | 351310 | aschauer | X |
| ESS | Michael Harrell | MH | Elected | 351310 | mdh666 | X |
| SEFS | Lisa Nordlund | LN | Elected | 352100 | nord |  |
| SEFS | Dan Vogt | DV | Appointed | 352100 | dvogt | X |
| SEFS | David Zuckerman | DZ | Appointed | 358010 | dzman | X |
| FHL | Peggy Combs | PC | Elected |  | fhlstock | X |
| JISAO | Burlyn Birkemeier | BB | Appointed | 354925 | bbirkeme | X |
| JISAO | Collen Marquist | CM | Appointed | 354925 | marquist  | X |
| SMEA | Jackie Chapman | JC | Appointed | 355685 | jachap |  |
| OCEAN | Kathy Newell | KN | Elected | 357940 | kknewell | X |
| OCEAN | Robert Kamphaus | RK | Appointed | 357940 | Kamphaus  | X |
| PoE | Clara Burnett | CB | Elected | 355679 | clara75 | X |
| WSG | Fiona Lee | FL | Elected | 355060 | flee415 | X |
| Dean's Office | Jessica Murphy | JM | Appointed | 355355 | jessm159 | X |
| EHS | Andreea Minea | AM | Ex-Officio | 354110 | am345 |  |
| Ass. Dean | Stephanie Harrington | SH | Ex-Officio | 355355 | stephah | X |

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\*X=Present at meeting

Meeting notes recorded by JM.

**Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes
3. Guest speaker – Becky Alexander
4. OARS Reports - August
5. Report from U Wide, open discussion
6. Adjourn

**1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Approved August minutes

**3. Guest speaker**

* Becky Alexander – Professor in Atmospheric Sciences, UW
	+ Expertise is in aerosol chemistry and how aerosols move around in the air
* Topics today:
	+ COVID-19 (Sources: Jose Jimenez and Linsey Marr)
	+ Air pollution from wildfires
* COVID-19 (Sources: Jose Jimenez and Linsey Marr)
	+ Viruses can be released into the air through coughing, sneezing, breathing, and talking.
	+ The virus is in droplets that range in size from smaller than we can see to large ones that fall to the floor quickly.
	+ At close range, the concentration of airborne virus will be high. As you get farther from the source the concentration falls of rapidly.
	+ If you are close, you are much more likely to inhale the virus. You are also more likely to be sprayed by large droplets that land on your face
	+ Smaller aerosols can move in around the mask and you can inhale it as you inhale the air
		- Masks are not 100% effective because there are small gaps
	+ A UV lamp can be helpful to kill aerosols that move upwards in the air
* Wildfires
	+ Record setting pollution last week
	+ Fires from Northern California and Oregon are traveling upwards
		- Airflow is going North and East
	+ Last week we were not getting significant pollution from Eastern W, we were getting it from much farther away
	+ Fire was coming from Pacific Ocean and back to the Puget sound
	+ Aerosols are transported long distances
	+ Last week, the pollution was different than it was from Tuesday of the previous week
		- Smelled very smoky
		- Airflow was from Eastern WA
			* May have had larger particles combined with smaller particles
			* Larger particles have a shorter lifetime
			* Much fresher emissions
	+ Compared to CA and OR, there had been a lot of chemical reactions that altered the aerosols because of the time it spent in the atmosphere, and was also a lot more humid because of the time it had spent traveling over the ocean
	+ On Saturday – transport coming in from the Pacific – more moisture, rain, cooler temperatures – no longer coming from the source of CA and OR
* Q&A:
	+ DZ: Older particulate matter, is it more harmful than younger particulate matter?
		- BA: This is an area of research. How does pollution from wildfires age over time? And what is the effect on the toxicity?
	+ AS: Smelled smoke in the lab last week, does that mean there’s small particulate matter in there?
		- BA: Yes, they are coming into the building with the air intake
	+ DW: What size particles are we getting down to? Will masks used for cycling in the city, help?
		- BA: At some point, the particles will be so small that they can travel through the mask. There won’t be zero particles in the air ever, but you want to do what you can to prevent. Particles can go down to 10’s of nanometers of size
	+ JW: There were a number of folks working in labs during the time it was smoky. They were getting headaches. Thinking about filtration on lab air handler – electrostatic filters? Are these effective? Is a mechanical filter better?
		- BA: They can both be effective to some degree. More mechanical filtration is more common, but doesn’t know if they are more effective

**4. OARS Reports**

* + 07-009 – diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome, work from home setup is not ergonomically sufficient – closed
	+ 07-017 – cutting tree limbs with ax, ax cut into right knee, resulted in needing stitches - closed
	+ 07-026 – talus slope gave way, right knee struck rock, right knee sprained – closed
	+ 08-021 – R/V Carson sitting on bottom (aground), then moved to bottom at low tide - open
	+ 08-035 – wrist pain and arm pain due to excessive typing and usage of mouse, frequent headaches due to screen usage – closed
	+ 08-042 – employee on ladder accidentally kicked another employee in the jaw while reaching for tools, employee had a loose filling where kicked – closed

**4. Open Discussion/ Announcements**

U-Wide meeting

* Labor and Industries presentation
	+ Claims are down, most claims have come from medical center
	+ 60% of claims are related to strains on body
		- Primarily nursing staff, custodians, and hospital assistants
	+ Top diagnosis: sprains
	+ Better for person to come back to work because it gives them something to do
		- People can end up with depression or other compounding problems
* Medical centers are preparing for flu season
* Masks have been mailed out to all students
* UW is working on emergency preparedness class
* UWPD bike squad is on campus at all times
* OSHA training class – in the first class, 5 people met in a room meant for 30 people, held at Roosevelt high school
* New COVID nurse starting on Sep. 14th
* Expect an update to working in confined space program, next month
* UW will have its own contact tracing app soon

Discussion

* Contact Tracing
	+ UCSD has a contact tracing app that everyone is required to use
	+ Student attestations – undergrads are required to sign a husky pledge – saying that they will behave
* Testing program
	+ Everyone who is going to be on campus - UW would like everyone to volunteer
	+ People will be randomly selected from the group at least once a week, heavy focus on dorms and areas of residence
	+ People are not required to participate
* Flu shots
	+ CDC is recommending flu shot
	+ RK: will be requiring it on his ship due to unique circumstances. Will this be mandated throughout the university?
	+ SH: HSC can promote flu shot, but not able to require
* DW: U-Wide committee meeting minutes are posted on the EH&S website

**5. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm