



Faculty of Science Safety Committee Meeting
November 14th, 2025, ~ 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.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 Biology - Dr. David Chiasson
Department of Chemistry – Dr. Jason Clyburne
Animal Facility: Caila Henderson
Department of Forensic Science – Dr. Tim Frasier
Department of Earth Science – Dr. Mitch Kerr
Human Resources Department –
Facilities Management Department – Dennis Gillis

Minute taker – Adriana Tudor

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 1:00 pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

Call for Agenda Item Additions

No additions.

Minutes from the September 2025 meeting

Minutes adopted by consent.

BUSINESS ARISING

02 Alarm follow-up (incident 7309)

Leanne has been in communication with Kevin.

Additional follow-up will be conducted for the next meeting.

Stair follow-up (incident 7410)

The incident occurred on the stairs that lead to the Science Penthouse, and are not regularly accessed

by members of the Faculty of Science. Stairs fall under internal building maintenance; the Maintenance Supervisor will address mitigation and prevention. Stair condition would have been investigated at the time of the incident.

Update on removal of 1st stage alarm

- No updates provided.
- Removing the first-stage alarm is complex, and it is uncertain if the warning can be eliminated safely.
- Concerns were raised that the initial alarm stage may pose a safety risk.
- Options are being explored to make the alarm less disruptive.
- Increased education and clarity on alarm meaning are needed.
- SMU Safe App continues to have issues with notifications; further review is required to identify gaps.

Respirator fit testing

- Individuals who require respirators must undergo fit testing in accordance with provincial regulations.
- The need for a respirator will be based on a formal hazard evaluation.
- Respirators will be considered a backup control measure where appropriate.
- Chemical specific requirements must be identified.
- The University must offer fit testing; Leanne may receive training to conduct fit tests.
- Only CSA-approved respirators may be used.

REPORTS

Safety Advisor Report

Summary of Injury/Incident Reports for Faculty of Science

<p>Incident # 7455 September 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass found in garbage in S235; more incidents may have occurred. • Lab coordinators were reminded of proper disposal procedures. • Garbage bins were labeled over the summer. • In Biology labs, small bins were not labeled, and glass was found in them. They are now labelled. • A reminder regarding glass and sharps disposal has been sent by the Chair.
<p>Incident #7454 September</p>	<p>Fire alarm set off by improper sprinkler heads – already discussed last time</p>
<p>Incident # 7452 September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged submersible heater in the aquatic facility. • A student noticed a burning odor while setting up an experiment; no injuries occurred. • The heater was unplugged and the room ventilated. • The heater was removed the following day. • The heating element may have been compromised despite the heater not being exposed to air. No GFCIs were tripped. • SOP training will be updated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heaters older than three years will be removed from use.
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OHS Consultant: JOHSC Activity and Information

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) minutes: September 2025

Kevin Trudeau is offering training sessions on Emergency Management. **Leanne to follow up and see what the training includes and how to register.**

Office inspections and home office inspections (for home flex and hybrid flex) need to be submitted.

Intro to OHS training is available through Brightspace.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual WHMIS Review

- Annual review is required.
- Purpose is to ensure an appropriate system is in place, not to reassess content.
- Current WHMIS training through Brightspace aligns with provincial standards.
- Supervisors and lab coordinators are responsible for ensuring completion.
- No incidents have occurred due to insufficient WHMIS training
- There are no concerns with the current WHMIS training

Annual review of University Safety Policy (6-2007)

- No feedback was given

Review of 2025 Lab Inspection Checklist

- No smoking rule might not be relevant anymore.
- There is no review on the handling of radioactive material – **should be included and built into the form.**
- **4th point-** provide framework to have an equipment inventory **- eliminate this item.**
- Maintenance logs of equipment need to be up to date.
- To create a separate item- record keeping – maintenance service for relevant equipment
- **Work surfaces are protected from contamination – to adjust the wording to make it more clear.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Action: Meeting to be set for December.

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

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