

# W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

**Safety Committee Minutes**  
**March 8, 2018**  
**1 PM to 2:00 PM**  
**TPS 110**

Member	Representing	Present
<b>Employee Elected Members</b>		
<b>Chris Barrett</b>	Institute of Technology	X
<b>Kathleen Beaumont</b>	Professional Development Center	X
<b>Sara Contreras</b>	Equity and Inclusion	X
<b>Gabriella Crosby</b>	Social Work	X
<b>Mariah Goyenechea</b>	Enrollment Services	X
<b>Galen Guffy</b>	Finance & Administration Safety Committee Ex Officio Secretary	X
<b>David Hirschberg</b>	Center for Urban Waters	X
<b>Nathan Ketzner</b>	Nursing	X
<b>Carolyn Maxson</b>	Teaching & Learning Center	-
<b>Silvia Neely</b>	Academic Affairs, Global Honors, Urban Studies & Office of the Chancellor	X
<b>Gabriela Raisl</b>	Advancement	-
<b>Jim Seow</b>	Faculty Senate	X
<b>Nikki Tabafunda</b>	Milgard School of Business	X
<b>Ashley Walker</b>	Education	X
<b>Hannah Wilson</b>	Library	-
<b>Jennifer Wilson</b>	Academic Advising	X
<b>Management Appointed Members</b>		
<b>Stanley Joshua</b>	Director of Facilities Services	-
<b>Susan Wagshul-Golden</b>	Director of Campus Safety & Security	X
<b>Michelle Miller</b>	Environmental Science/IAS Instructional Supervisor	-
<b>James Sinding</b>	Auxiliary Services Manager	X
<b>Committee Executive Sponsor</b>		
<b>Dave Leonard</b>	Director of Environmental Health & Safety	X

**Meeting called to order:** 1:00 PM.

Lacking Quorum – Approval of February Minutes was tabled until the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**OARS Reports:** Hannah Wilson:

#2018-02-99: incident occurred on February 21, 2018 at 8:45 am – Employee experienced severe lower back trauma while receiving and restacking materials in the campus mail room. Specific vendor was Office Depot and materials consisting of several boxes of various weights from light to heavy, and 19 cases of paper at a weight of right about 55lbs each. While restacking the cases of paper, after relocating them to the holding area, employee experienced a severe stabbing pain in their lower back that traveled down both legs. The past days the employee reports extreme difficulty walking without a cane, they have difficulty sleeping, and they need assistance with some personal care matters. Employee experiences difficulty sitting in a stationary position for more than 10 to 15 minutes without muscle spasms and pain.

The Committee discussed the causes of this injury and future steps to prevent this kind repetitive strain back injury in the future:

- It is possible that cases of copy paper that are delivered to the mail room could be stored differently so that it is not necessary to lift them as often.
- The University could purchase a powered lift to assist with elevating particularly heavy items for storage.

- The mailroom employees can practice “buddy” lifting – assisting each other with the lifting of particularly heavy items.
- Mailroom employees should be educated as to ergonomic lifting procedures.
- Weight lifting belts should be worn whenever lifting heavy objects for optimal back support.

**Environmental Health & Safety Report: Dave Leonard, Susan Wagshul-Golden and the Committee:**

The committee discussed the safety hazards of the potholed Court D east of the Whitney Building and the similarly potholed gravel alley Court E above Fawcett Street. Silvia Neely filed a City of Tacoma 311 report citing the problems with both roads. James Sinding reported that the City of Tacoma will regrade both roads over Spring Break. Gim Seow noted that there is also a significant pothole on Court C near the Court 17 student apartment complex.

Susan Wagshul-Golden reported on the stickering of campus by the neo-Nazi group Identity Evropa that chiefly targets college campuses in order to recruit college age white men to their white supremacist cause. Susan reports that March and April are prominent months for hate group activity as they coincide with the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s assassination (March) and Adolf Hitler’s birthday (April). This recent stickering at UW Tacoma was part of a nationwide campaign spearheaded by the hate group. Susan warned that these stickers are sometimes booby-trapped with sharp objects or toxic chemicals designed to wound/injure anyone trying to remove them. If anyone observes an Identity Evropa sticker, flyer, or other type of suspicious propaganda do not remove it. Document it (take a photo with a phone camera) and notify Campus Safety citing the location of the posting. Alternatively, if anyone spots a hate group sticker or posting off campus they should document it and notify local law enforcement and the FBI Counter Terrorist Unit in Seattle.

Dave Leonard reported on UW Tacoma’s plans to build a new Academic Building on campus across the street from the Tacoma Paper & Stationary Building (TPS). The planning, design, and execution of this new building will ensue over the next two biennium – approximately the next 4 to 6 years.

Dave Leonard reported on GeoEngineers’ contaminated groundwater assessment on the UW Tacoma campus. The tests will most likely occur over the course of this summer (2018). Dave will send out notifications to campus once the dates and times have been finalized.

**Safety Committee Deliverables: Dave Leonard:**

Dave outline the following deliverable actions he would like the UW Tacoma Safety Committee to focus on this term:

- Assist with reporting on two key safety areas on campus: pedestrian safety and emergency warden training and readiness.
- Traffic Safety Recommendations and Remediation for the UW Tacoma Campus to bring to the City of Tacoma (COT) Transportation Department and the UW Board of Regents (BOR).

The Committee shared ideas about how to accomplish these goals:

- survey campus to gather quantitative and qualitative data about pedestrian safety on campus
- present a campus pedestrian safety virtual survey as an idea for an Urban Studies/Global Information Systems student cohort to work on.
- Provide a centrally located booth with an aerial map of campus for students and employees to vote with sticky notes on the most perilous intersection on campus.
- Also gather data on the streets surrounding and leading to campus as students and employees commute on these streets.

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Galen Guffy

The next meeting of the committee will be April 12, 2018 at 1 pm in CP 206C.