

**2016 - 2017 AGM Report**

**VIUFA - Workplace Health and Safety Rep**

My work on your behalf as Workplace Health and Safety Representative for FPSE has included a number of interesting topics. Please take a moment to read the five points of information below.

**1) “SHAKE OUT” 9:45AM October 20, 2016:** In October this past fall the VIU Campus performed its first-ever campus wide “SHAKE OUT” drill where earthquake response measures and emergency evacuation procedures were tested. All students and faculty participated in the drill and it provided a wealth of information on what needed to improve with everything from the messaging on the audio alert system and “Alertus” apps to how evacuation muster points performed. It was also a chance for Emergency Wardens to be trained. Many had not performed their duties since the actual earthquake back in 2003! There will be more ShakeOut Drills and other drills in the future, some will be announced beforehand and some may be a surprise drill.

**2) Audio Video Systems:**  I have been attending the still relatively new Audio Visual Security Assessment Committee on the Union’s behalf. This committee is a requirement of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and assesses all new and existing audio or video monitoring systems that are installed at VIU. The committee is chaired by Richard Lewis of Facilities and includes representation from the VIU Students Union, CUPE, BCGEU, Health and Safety, and Administration. AV Systems are meant to be a last resort when considering ways to secure an area and make it safer. A guiding principle is that audio video systems do not necessarily prevent crime but can be an aid in potential prosecution. Personal privacy is of paramount importance. The committee has had a very busy year considering a huge number of installations proposed by Facilities Services. In addition to new proposals, all existing video cameras, like the webcams that overlook the main quad in front of the Library and Cafeteria, must be sent through the same process of approval and evaluation. Finally, it is important to note that at no time is the video monitored by a staff or security member. The systems are meant for temporary recording of activity only so that they can be reviewed during the course of an investigation after an incident and there remain strict limits on how that material can be viewed and used.

Here are the Video systems that have been approved or rejected by the Committee. A common theme is that these are mainly storage compounds for bikes and equipment, areas where money is handled, or where students frequent after hours.

* The Bike Compound near the Gym
* The Campus Store (305)
* VIU Residences Main Entrance
* VIU Residences Outdoor Areas (behind building 4, 5, 7 and 9 and bike locker)
* VIU Residences Pathway
* B110 and Grounds Compound
* Powell River Campus outside area
* Building 300 185 Servers
* Building 395 Compound
* Building 391 Science Compound

Examples of applications that were rejected or deferred. A common theme is that these are areas frequented more by employees or places where privacy of individuals is impacted.

* Dental Hygiene B180. An intrusion alarm was suggested instead.
* VIU Residences Common Areas
* Lower area and reception B255/International
* Building 120 Front Office
* Building 190

There will also be temporary cameras installed on the worksites for the new buildings being built on Campus. These cameras are meant to secure those contractor-controlled areas.

**3)** Local Committees Health and Safety Committees are continuing to meet but there have been some difficulties drumming up interest in some buildings. Please if you see a message from the Health and Safety office asking for your participation on these committees don’t hesitate to respond. They are not onerous and they have a direct and positive impact on the well being of your co-workers and students. You can also contact Mark, Erin or Kim in the Health and Safety Office anytime if you want to signal that you’re willing to help.

**4)** Incidents and changes to JOHSC responsibilities and WSBC expectations:

There were two major incidents in the past year. One was a release of Asbestos at the Cowichan campus last summer, the second was a serious problem at the Baynes Sound Shellfish Research Centre in January that led to a closing of that facility while it was being addressed. In both cases no VIUFA members were directly impacted but there was definitely a chance of injury or exposure. These incidents highlighted changes that Worksafe BC has enacted requiring much more immediate reporting of all incidents, big and small, directly to WSBC. In the case of the Shellfish Research Centre, the incident was reported to the Health and Safety office over the weekend and was not followed up on until Monday. This would have been fine under the old standards but WSBC has made it clear that this kind of delay is not acceptable in the future. If you see a potentially unsafe situation, or see a ‘near miss’ where someone could have been injured, it is important to contact the Health and Safety Office, your Administrator, and WSBC immediately and directly.

**5)** New Terms of Reference for this position and second VIUFA representative for the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

I have attached to this report a proposed Terms of Reference for this position. There has never been a codified ToR for this position since it was created a number of years ago. It lays out in broad terms some of the duties and goals that the representative agrees to when taking on the post. Also, VIUFA actually appoints two members to the JOHS Committee. Peter Diamente has served the Union very well for the past number of years including as co-Chair of the Committee since 2015. He is stepping down this summer and Jessie Key (Chemistry prof) has agreed to replace Peter (subject to approval by members at the AGM. It is an excellent and even fun committee where you learn a lot about what is happening ‘on the ground’ at VIU and also have a direct hand in making the University a safer and more welcoming space.

I highly recommend going to the Health and Safety Website <http://sites.viu.ca/healthandsafety> and checking out the information that is there. Or familiarize yourself with the Emergency poster that should be posted in every building and common area at VIU. Many of the common questions asked were answered on that poster. If you want a poster to put up in your area, contact the office at safety@viu.ca.

I will be standing again to be your rep for this FPSE position in the coming year. If elected I look forward to continuing to learn and do this work and represent you and VIUFA in this position.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Alemany

Workplace Health and Safety Rep - FPSE

VIUFA Workplace Health, Safety and Environment Representative to FPSE

Terms of Reference

The primary responsibilities of this position are:

* to represent VIUFA in one of its legislated positions on the Vancouver Island University Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC).
* to respond to and assist members in complaints and incidents relating to Workplace Health, Safety and Environment conditions at VIU.
* to represent VIUFA Local 8 on the Federation of Post Secondary Educators WHSE Committee.
* to regularly attend and report to the VIUFA Executive Committee.
* to submit a report to the VIUFA Annual General Meeting.

The VIUFA WHSE Representative may also participate in VIU and VIUFA supported committees, training, and workshops related to the topic.

FPSE WHSE Committee meetings occur 2 times per year (generally November and February)

The Representative also optionally attends the FPSE Annual General Meeting (April).

Term is 2 years and renewable. Set at the VIUFA AGM.

**JOINT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION**

According to the VIU JOHSC Terms of Reference, VIUFA is required to have **two** representatives on the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

One position is filled by the VIUFA FPSE WHSEC representative. The second representative is to be filled by an at-large (non-exec) VIUFA member voted by the VIUFA membership at an AGM.

Whenever possible, one of the VIUFA members at the JOHSC should come from the Faculty of Science and Tech and one from another Faculty.

The election for the FPSE Representative and 2nd JOHSC representative should be held on alternating years to ensure continuity on the JOSHC.