



Health and Safety Committee

Covid-19 Meeting

6 November 2020, 2.00pm

Minutes

Present Members:

Ms Fiona Ryland, (Convenor)

Dr Matthew Blain, Executive Director of Human Resources

Miss Hayley Boakes

Ms Sandra Bond

Ms Sonia Buckingham

Mr Colin Byelong

Dr Alun Coker

Dr Rachel Hadi-Talab

Mr Keith Harvey

Mr Max Hill, Director of Workplace Health

Ms Tansy Jones

Mr Brian Kavanagh

Mr David Ladd

Dr Matt Lougher

Ms Carol Paige

Mrs Hayley Ramsay, Deputy Head of Safety

Mrs Eira Rawlings

Mr Paul Stirk, Head of Safety

Ms Joanne Tapper

Attendees:

Mr Ian Dancy

Ms Deb Nichols

Ms Tracy Pearmain

Prof Irene Petersen

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Apologies:

Ms Theo Bryer

Mr Roy Capleton

Miss Yasmeen Daoud

Part I: Preliminary Business

19 Minutes

- 19.1 The Health and Safety Committee (HSC) approved the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2020 with the following amendments:
- 19.2 At 16.3 that ‘the vice convenor (in his capacity as a member of the Senior Management Team) declined the Trade Unions’ requests, affirming the formal UCL position. The request for weekly asymptomatic testing of all students and staff made at the 9 October meeting had been taken to the Public Health Advisory Panel (PHAP) who advise the Senior Management Team. The proposal was not adopted but would be kept under review.’
- 19.3 A new point at 16.7 that ‘the Students Union emphasised that students wanted more face to face teaching and activities on campus.’

20 Matters Arising (Paper 3-15)

- 20.1 Arising from minute 16.6, review the Trade Unions’ request that meeting all potential contacts (where a contact is defined as someone who has been in the same room or teaching space as a positive case) of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 be informed of their potential exposure, and bring the decision to the next. Whilst it was noted that students and staff wearing face coverings and keeping two meters apart do not meet the NHS definition of a ‘contact’, the request would be taken to the chair of the daily and weekly PHAP meetings. People who meet the definition of a ‘contact’ are already informed of their potential exposure via the UCL Connect to Protect system.
- 20.2 The Chief of Staff to The Chief Operating Officer would arrange for the request to be discussed at the next available PHAP meeting, where it would be included in the notes and the discussion would be shared with the Committee.

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

21 Covid-19 update

- 21.1 The Convenor briefly summarised UCL's response to the introduction of the second lockdown.
- 21.2 The question of whether to introduce asymptomatic testing, particularly for students on placement, was being kept under review.
- 21.3 End of term planning had started, with strategies dependent on the government's advice. It was agreed that the plans for the end of the current term and the start of the next would be presented at the next meeting.
- 21.4 The number of people on campus was tracked by CARDAX usage. An overview of the number of students who are still attending face to face teaching would be obtained.

22 Covid-19 assurance inspections (Paper 3-16)

- 22.1 The Head of Safety presented an overview analysis of inspections and compliance for key Covid-19 controls up to 3 November 2020 inclusive. Updated reports would be brought to future meetings.
- 22.2 Due to limited resource not all buildings were included in the current programme. However all departments that have returned to campus should be carrying out their own inspection, using the riskNET template AT0093: Covid-19 Compliance inspection. The Head of Safety would be able to consider expanding the programme once a clearer picture had emerged of how long the audits were taking to complete.

23 Items for discussion from the Trade Unions

- 23.1 The Trade Unions repeated their request for asymptomatic Covid19 testing for the groups highlighted at the last meeting.
- 23.2 It was reported that this was discussed at the weekly PHAP meeting, and that between these meetings the question of how asymptomatic testing programmes could be run continued to be explored. There were several issues, including: robustness of the testing programme; logistics; the speed at which results could be obtained and how the university could get people to take the tests.

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23.3 It was agreed that Mr Graham Hart or one of the public health advisors would be asked to speak at the next meeting on this matter, as a representative of PHAP.

24 Any other business

24.1 It was agreed that HSC meetings would be arranged to synchronise with Joint Consultation and Negotiation Committee (JCNC) meetings so that the latter could receive HSC minutes. After the next meeting, HSC meetings would be held monthly rather than fortnightly. It would be ensured that the meeting minutes were up to date online.

The meeting finished at 3.20 pm

Jon Blackman

October 2020