

## UO Safety Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date: November 21, 2024**

**Attendees** (“X” indicates meeting attendance):

Name	DEPT		Name	DEPT		Name	DEPT	
Charles Dougherty	Athletics		Justin Zunker	EHS	X	Trisha Lijana	RISK	
Krista Osburn	Athletics	X	Brittany Jayne	ELR	X	Lisa Taylor	RISK	
Devon Shea	Athletics		Celia Marie Nittmann	ELR	X	Gary Malone	SEIU	X
Jeffrey Billington	CoD	X	Mike Barr	EMU		Chris McLaughlin	SEIU	
Phil Chesbro	CPFM		David Flock	EMU	X	Theodora Ko Thompson	SEIU	
Kevin Farthing	CPFM	X	Wade Young-Jelinek	EMU	X	<b>Ruby Thompson</b>	SEIU	X
Michael Philly	CPFM		Steven Harris	FS*	X	Alonzo Costilla	Teamsters	
Julie Quelch	EC Cares	X	Christina Cauley	GTFF		David Catherwood	Teamsters	
Kersey Bars	EHS	X	Errol Kaylor	GTFF		Rhonda Reed	TS	
Ben Bythell	EHS		Leslie Selcer	GTFF		Shawn Kahl	UA**	X
Laurie Graham	EHS	X	Lynn Alvarez	Housing		Kate Mills	UA	X
Haily Griffith	EHS	X	J R Frankfurt	Housing	X	Dean Walton	UA	
Jenny Kane	EHS	X	Adrian Sampedro Cruz	OA*** Council	X	Debra McLaughlin	UHS	X
Nicole Nesser	EHS	X	Kyle Harshbarger	OHAZ		Ashley Dougherty	UOPD	
Seth Sponcey	EHS		Al Dias	PE & REC		Carl Peaster	UOPD	
Steve Stuckmeyer	EHS	X	Cody Weaver	PE & REC				
Laura Taggart-Murphy	EHS	X	Tiffany Lee	RISK	X			
*Fleet Services								
**University Advancement								
***Officers of Administration								
<b>Chairperson</b>								
<b>Guests</b>								

### INJURY REPORT

**INCIDENT 16:** There was a question about communication with contractors when supplies are left. Haily provided the clarification that the hose impacted the employee’s ability to do their job.

**INCIDENT 18:** Steven provided the information that he had installed several switches that had failed and has been in contract with the vendor/manufacturer, and they have built in additional safety measures.

**INCIDENT 39:** David wanted to know which railing the employee was referring to. Haily asked Tiffany to send her the incident report, so she could connect with David.

**INCIDENT 56:** Kathryn is curious about the recommendations and follow up. Justin did the follow up with the incident and shared that there is a walk off map and did not see an issue with the stairs. Theo asked if the recommendations are a work order requirement and who does that. Also, Theo asked if this it is a potential risk factor for all buildings to look at their stairs, since rainy weather is normal here. Haily

said that there may be additional factors to consider, like rushing or their mind not on task and explained that there is a science behind the length of walk off mats. For example, the length accounts for two full footfalls on the mat before the walking surface.

## **REVIEW MINUTES**

**The October 2024 meeting minutes were approved**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**LITHIUM BATTERY FIRES:** Dean asked if there have been any fires on campus related to lithium batteries and if there has been any discussion on a “Bring in your Dead Batteries” Day. Ben responded that the UO Fire Marshal have been looking into this issue for the batteries and bikes.

**UPDATE (05/16):** Haily shared with the committee that we are working on a safety sheet for lithium batteries.

**UPDATE (09/19):** Kersey shared that EHS has created a Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Sheet and put the [link](#) in the chat.

**NOTE:** This item has been resolved and will be removed from the minutes.

**HELMETS AND E-SCOOTERS:** This is an ongoing concern and will remain on the meeting minutes.

**UPDATE (12/21):** Eugene and Superpedestrian’s contract is dissolving, so the Superpedestrian scooters will be removed from campus.

**UPDATE (01/18):** Haily reminded the committee members that if they are using a scooter for a work-related purpose and on work time, that they need to wear a helmet.

**UPDATE (02/15):** Rhonda shared that Transportation Services has the equipment ready and are working on installing cages at the Millrace Garage and EMU for people to charge their e-Scooters. Krista asked if they will be the only cages on campus and Rhonda explained that those are the only two locations that are actively in progress but imagines that there will be monitoring of campus to see where the needs are highest. Dean asked if you could charge e-Bikes and Rhonda believes that the chargers will work with e-Bikes, but the intent is e-Scooters. Dean asked what the number of personal transportation devices the cages can hold, and Rhonda is uncertain. Ruby shared that people are upset about the bikes and scooters that are charging at Jaqua. Haily reminded the committee that there was recently a fire in a residence hall because of a lithium battery, so she is excited about the progress of the charging cages.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SAC:** Ruby shared with the committee that Safety and Risk Services has awarded \$1500 to the Safety Advisory Committee to use for any safety related item. This award is for the 2025 fiscal year. Some examples that the money can be used for are bringing in a speaker, hosting a training, renting a room to provide a space for campus to meet with their safety team/safety committee, etc. The \$1500 does not have to be spent on one item, it can be used for multiple things. Kersey will post a link in the chat to a Microsoft form for all members of the committee to submit ideas for what SAC can use the money for. We are asking that SAC create a subcommittee of 3-5 people to review the submissions and present the ones they believe to be the most impactful for SAC to vote on. The goal is to have the ideas chosen by the subcommittee to be presented at the September meeting.

**UPDATE (07/18):** Ruby reminded the committee to submit their ideas for the financial support for SAC and asked if there was any additional interested in participating on the subcommittee. Haily explained to the committee that the subcommittee, which includes Ruby and Rhonda, will review the ideas to select the most impactful and present them to at the September meeting.

**UPDATE (08/15):** The form will be closing on Friday, August 16 at 5:00 p.m., so please submit your ideas before then. If you are not comfortable submitting your ideas through the form, then you can email them to Ruby or Rhonda, as they will be the ones reviewing the ideas.

**UPDATE (09/19):** Dean mentioned the foam from the building inspection at Alder House and wondered if it was something we could add to the 1500. Haily shared the foam, explained the purpose, and added that this is something currently supported through the Occupational Health and Safety budget, but it is something that can be discuss with the subcommittee.

**UPDATE (10/17):** The safety committee voted to approve the ideas that subcommittee proposed. There were 11 votes in favor and three votes against. There will be money left over, so please continue to submit ideas.

**UPDATE (11/21):** Ruby reported that the approved items have been ordered and proposed that the approved in-person catered meeting be scheduled for January 2025. Every unit that participated in the meeting will get a box cutter.

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** Haily shared with the committee that EHS is always available to help and encourages people to reach out with their questions and concerns. Employees have the right to call OSHA with their concerns, which did happen. OSHA was called regarding materials that were being stored in a metal storage container and we are under investigation. At this time, Haily does not have additional information.

**UPDATE (11/21):** Haily provided the information that normally after the closing conference from an OSHA inspection, the compliance officer will send a final letter with the details of the investigation. We have not received this letter, though it has been several months. Haily is sharing this information with the rest of the committee, so they know that this issue has been resolved. As the steward in the meetings, Gary confirmed that the OSHA Compliance Officer said that they would send a letter within 90 days.

**NOTE:** This item has been resolved and will be removed from the minutes.

**INCIDENT 28 AND 29:** Dean and Theo wanted more information about these injuries. Dean asked about the size of the stacks. Haily shared that Michelle has been assigned to this follow up and that EHS asked similar questions. Theo wanted to know if this was one or two people. Tiffany confirmed that it was two people completing the same task. Christina asked if there is webbing or reinforcement. Haily explained that they are not attached, since they are designed to move around. Haily referenced the STURDY Act, which looks at consumer product safety and is designed for housing units and focuses on the design of the furniture to prevent it from tipping or falling over. Chrstina said that this reads as rules around use, not storage, and that stacking seems to be the issue. Haily agreed that this is about how the items are being used and moved.

**UPDATE (10/17):** On behalf of Michelle, Haily shared an update regarding the follow up for this incident. The contracts that students sign with Housing is clear that students are not supposed to move/manipulate furniture. The dressers are not meant to, and should not be stacked, but they were stacked by students and UO employees had to move them.

**NOTE:** This item has been resolved and will be removed from the minutes.

**FLOODING PROTOCOL:** Dean asked if there was information or protocol that we provide to people about flooding. Haily shared that the Incident Management Team (IMT) has protocols for catastrophic floodings but is not sure if there is safety information for when we have a heavy rain fall that results in

flooding. Haily extended an ask to the other members of the committee to think about the things that are likely to happen during a heavy rainfall.

**BITES/STINGS ON CSB GROUNDS:** Julie shared that they have been getting bites and stings to the children at CSB. She has reached out to CPM and wants to know about UO protocol and/or best practices. Haily shared that there is an integrated pest management team and wonders if it would be possible for them to meet with the person who manages the building.

**SPEED PROJECTION SIGN:** Dean wonders if it would be possible to have a sign that shows how fast bikes are going on campus. A concern was raised that it may cause some to view it as a challenge and encourage them to go faster. Haily likes the idea, since there has been an injury involving an e-Bike and a pedestrian at a different university. In response to the injury, that campus created only walk zone. Christina suggested signs to remind people to use bells and notify pedestrians when approaching and reminders to ride in designated lane. Justin added signs about walking all e-scooters/scooters and e-bikes/bikes on sidewalks. Shawn asked what speed that is considered a safe speed, and Haily does not know. Haily added that Transportation Services has given a presentation to the committee before. Wade added that the e-scooters that were previously on campus were designed to behave a certain way (speed limits, distance from campus limits, etc.) and were bound by those guidelines and wonders if it is possible to bring back that partnership with Superpedestrian to flood the area with the behaviors that we want. Superpedestrian has gone out of business, which is what caused the partnership to end. Occupational Health and Safety will be reaching out to our partners in Transportation Services to see what options are available.

**UPDATE (10/17):** Haily shared that at a different university there have been injuries that are associated with e-scooters and that she has seen multiple people run a stop sign early in the morning. She reminded the rest of the committee that we cannot control other people's behavior, but we – as safety committee members – can share information to improve safety awareness.

**NEW GRADUATE EMPLOYEE TRAINING:** Christina asked how the new GE trainings went. Laurie shared that it was the biggest training ever with more departments involved compared. There were 100-150 students who attended over 5 different sessions.

**NOTE:** This item has been resolved and will be removed from the minutes

**WINTER WEATHER:** Dean was in Bend and noticed that there is snow on the ground in Santiam Pass and advises that people begin their winter preparations.

**NON-STAFF USE OF LADDER:** Shawn asked for more information about non-employee use of ladders. We do not want a non-UO employee using a UO-supplied ladder, because UO becomes liable for incidents/injury or if there is damage to the ladder. Haily explained that there are not restrictions on people using ladders, but they need to be trained and advised to review the space use contract and see if there is anything about ladder use in the contract. Haily will be chatting with Risk and Liability about this. Shawn added that Ford Alumni has become a common place for High School Prom, so there is the potential for minors using ladders too. Haily responded that we can and should treat this like every contractor on campus. For example, asking, "Are you going to use ladders and who are your qualified ladder users and the training records". We want to prevent injury, and our responsibility may be university employees, but we can and should have these conversations.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **SAFETY SHOUT OUTS:**

Kersey to Zero Waste: A student employee encountered a box of needles that had not been properly disposed of, so they left them alone and reported to somebody higher in the chain of command, who reached out to Kersey. Due to this, EHS was able to collect the needles and dispose of them properly. Kersey thanked Zero Waste, because this shows how well they are training their employees and speaks to their safety culture.

Haily to Laura: Haily thanked Laura for the recommendation about poison oak wipes and she shared the information with CPFM Grounds Crew and OHAZ.

**WINTER SAFETY PREPARATION PLAN:** Kevin Farthings discussed the preparation plan and process for if/when there is an inclement weather event at UO. GIS/LIL will update the [Winter Weather Map](#) with the conditions once they are notified. The walkways in purple are the ADA and priority routes and are the ones that will be cleared first, as well as the priority parking lots. Custodial will clear that ADA entrances. There are 7 Kubotas with plows and brushes, bobcats, sand spreaders, and a backhoe that are ready. Kevin shared that there is planned training time to refamiliarize employees with the equipment should there be an inclement weather event and there is a discussion with CPFM Grounds Crew about putting people on call. JR asked if there will be enough sand for Housing, which Kevin confirmed. Gary asked about the overlap with Grounds Crew and Custodial and wants to know if Custodial will have time to stretch, get training for shoveling, and be supplied with foul weather gear. Kevin said that there is gear available and that he will talk to the Custodial supervisors about training for shoveling. Relatedly, Kevin spoke about how taking a break when getting fatigued – during normal and inclement weather – is not an unauthorized break. Justin added that he had meet with the Custodial Crews to discuss safe shoveling. Julie is curious about the parking lot at EC Cares, since she does the driveway preparations. Kevin said that he worked with Transportation Services to create the parking lot priority map and that after the priority lots are cleared, they will have the ability to plow those parking lots. Julie said that if there is a cancelation for school, then they are low priority, but wants to know their placement can be reconsidered if there is not a school cancelation. Kevin said that if school has not been canceled and there is accumulation that is preventing access to put in a work order to the space added. Haily showed how to navigate to the winter weather map [link](#). Haily explained how Fleet Services and Safety and Risk Services will patrol campus during inclement weather to evaluate the areas and inform GIS/LIL when there are hazardous areas and when they have been cleared. Haily encourages people to evaluate the map prior to inclement weather, so they know if they will need to adjust their route to match with the priority routes for easy access to their space. Kevin said that people can reach out to him with questions.

### **DECEMBER SAFETY TRAINING:**

Reach out to Justin to get added to safety training monthly list

#### **December Safety Training (In Person):**

##### **Ladder Safety**

*This training covers the set-up, safe use and inspection of many different types of ladders: fixed ladders, extension ladders, and step ladders.*

Tuesday, December 10th 8:00-9:00 am or Thursday, December 19th 1:00-2:00 pm

1715 Franklin Building, EOC, Rm 271

Instructor: Justin Zunker

Sign up [HERE!](#)

MyTrack - Ladder Safety Online

<https://uomytrack.pageuppeople.com/learning/3039>

MyTrack - Step Ladder Safety Online

<https://uomytrack.pageuppeople.com/learning/2786>

### **Hazard Communication and Globally Harmonized System**

*This training addresses the importance of a standardized system in the workplace for communicating hazard information on all chemicals.*

Tuesday, December 10th 9:00-10:00 am or Tuesday, December 17th 1:00-2:00 pm

1715 Franklin Building, EOC, Rm 271

Instructor: Kersey Bars

Sign up [HERE!](#)

### **December Safety Sheets (For Department Use):**

Week 1: [Shoveling](#)

Week 2: [Severe Weather – Ice/Snow](#)

[Severe Weather – Ice/Snow \(Spanish\)](#)

Week 3: [Cold Stress](#)

Week 4: [Cleaners, Disinfectants](#)

Don't forget to check out our [Fall Protection Lending Library](#) if your team has special fall protection needs on campus! More information can be found [HERE](#).

**GENERAL LADDER SAFETY:** Since safety does not stop at work; Justin briefly discussed best practices for safe ladder use provided links to the [OR OSHA Portable Ladder Safety](#) and [NIOSH Ladder Safety App](#). Haily asked if anyone knows why Justin was talking about ladders? This is the time of year that the emergency room calls this season ladder season, due to the uptick in injuries from ladder injuries from installing decorations. Gary added that indoor decorating is dangerous too (standing on chairs, books, tables, for example).