

Trent Amonett, Elected Co-Chair
 tramone@wsu.edu | 509-335-7369

MEMBERS (“E” for employee, “S” for student, “M” for management)

NAME	DEPARTMENT	DESIGNATION	PRESENT	ABSENT
Amonett, Trent	College of Arts and Sciences	E	X	
Benjamin, Francis	Psychology	E	X	
Blong, John	Anthropology	E		X
Carter, Pat	College of Arts and Sciences	M	X	
Harty, JJ	Fine Arts	E	X	
Heyns, Sheila	Institute for Shock Physics	E		X
Hopkins, Denise	School of the Environment	E	X	
Johnson, Ed	School of Biological Sciences	E	X	
Kan, Yuwei	Chemistry	E	X	
VACANT	Physics & Astronomy	E		X
Knaack, Charles	School of the Environment	E	X	
Lafferty, Wade	College of Arts and Sciences	M	X	
Makin, David	Criminal Justice	E	X	
Rollins, Kris	School of Lang., Culture, Race	E	X	
Sorensen, Shaun	School of Music	E		X
Stormo, Grant	Tech. Services	E		X

GUESTS

NAME	DEPARTMENT	TITLE
Ringo, Shawn	Environmental Health & Safety	Director

Wade Lafferty began the meeting by asking for a motion to elect a co-chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Safety Committee.

- Ed Johnson nominated Trent Amonett as co-chair of the Committee, and Francis Benjamin seconded.
- Trent Amonett was unanimously elected as co-chair of the committee for the 2024/2025 academic year.

INCIDENT REPORTS AND SUPERVISOR’S ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORTS RECEIVED

1. April 22, 2024: A larger gauge hypodermic needle was found in a recycling bin collected from a CAS building. The needle wasn’t found until after it had been taken out of the building for recycling.
 - a. An investigation did not conclusively determine who or what lab may have been responsible for the needle.
 - b. The gauge of the needle was seen as being too large for someone using it for recreational purposes.

- c. The committee chair asked unit representatives to remind people working in lab to dispose of sharps responsibly.
2. July 17, 2024: During maintenance of a parking structure—a project managed by an outside contractor—fumes from a parking-deck coating entered a CAS building via the air intake and made building occupants sick.
 - a. Trent Amonett suggested that the Building Coordinators might need to initiate contact with the Facilities Project Manager to discuss upcoming work that may impact occupants.
 - b. Pat Carter mentioned that with the Eastlick/Abelson project, there were instances where subcontractors performed work that impacted occupants, about which the subs did not communicate to the project contractor; ergo, Facilities' Project Managers may not always be aware.
 - c. Shawn Ringo indicated that there were notifications about the project that were not communicated. This was an out-of-the-ordinary occurrence and shouldn't be a problem in the future.
3. August 9, 2024: A student employee was clearing dead branches at an off-campus research facility and got dirt in his eye.
 - a. The student employee should have been wearing proper PPE for his eyes.
4. August 27, 2024: A student in an instructional lab was dealing with foggy goggles while “loading a melting-point device with a capillary tube,” and he lifted his goggles so he could better see what he was doing. After lifting his goggles, his left eye began to feel irritated. There was some debate intra-departmentally about what caused the irritation, coming down to chemical fumes or sweat. Sweat made the Incident Report.
 - a. Students in labs should deal with problems with PPE outside of the lab and away from any potentially hazardous materials. It may have been sweat, but it could have easily been fumes or direct chemical contact that caused the student's eyes to become irritated.
 - b. Anti-fog spray is available to students for use.
5. September 24, 2024: An employee was checking an instructional lab for spills, and while in the lab the employee heard glass crunching under his feet. Looking down, he saw broken glass and a spill that had evaporated, none of which had been cleaned up.
 - a. This is considered a near miss as no one was injured, but the spill should have been cleaned up at the time of the incident.
 - b. College administration and EH&S are working with the Department to address instructional lab safety concerns.
6. September 24, 2024: During an evening lab, the TA needed to leave the lab and asked another TA to watch the lab. After entering the lab, the TA asked to assist was overwhelmed by the smell of nitric acid only to discover that the student, bench-top fume hoods were determined to have timed off.
 - a. This is considered a near miss as no one was injured.

- b. Benchtop fume hoods in student labs in this building are on 12-hour timers, and while they were turned on in the morning, they timed off during the evening lab.
 - c. This is seen as a training issue, but the Department and EH&S are funding a project to replace the dial timers used for the student hoods with programmable, 24-hour timers that can be adjusted each semester to accommodate actual class lab times.
 - d. College administration and EH&S are working with the Department to address instructional lab safety concerns.
7. September 27, 2024: While checking glassware in instructional lab drawers, an employee was “hit with a face-full of DCM (dichloromethane).”
- a. The employee discovered that the source of DCM was a beaker of DCM left in the drawer by a student.
 - b. The employee turned on the benchtop fume hood to allow the DCM to evaporate and left the lab.
 - c. The employee said his lung felt irritated, and he began coughing, and he went to the Emergency Room at Pullman Regional Hospital. Thankfully the employee appears to have made a full recovery.
 - d. College administration and EH&S are working with the Department to address instructional lab safety concerns.
- Trent Amonett mentioned that incidents that result in serious injury (e.g., amputation, in-patient hospitalization, death) requires a phone call to EH&S at 509-335-3041.
 - As soon as you are aware of an in-patient hospitalization, inform EH&S at the above number. Washington Dept. of Labor and Industries (L&I) has an eight-hour deadline.
 - Amputations have a 24-hour deadline. Losing the tip of a finger is considered an amputation.
 - All Incident Reports ideally are submitted within 24 hours of the incident.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM REVIEW, UPDATES, AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Chapters currently being edited are:
 - Bloodborne Pathogens
 - Lab Safety
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Safety & Health Training
- Edited chapters will be sent to committee members to review. Questions can be directed to Trent Amonett, and edits and comments can be made in the document.
- At the suggestion of Wade Lafferty, anyone leaving comments are encouraged to use *@Amonett, Trent* so an email is sent notifying Trent of new comments.

SAFETY INSPECTIONS PERFORMED

- None discussed

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SECURITY TOPICS DISCUSSED AND PROMOTED

1. The Committee discussed the importance of communicating safety information between safety committees in the College. Specifically, communication methods between the Level 3 (College) committee and the various Level 4 (Department/School) committees.
 - a. The CAS committee largely depends upon Level 4 committee meeting minutes, Incident Reports, and Supervisor Accident Investigation Reports (when required) for communication between units and the College.
 - b. Direct communication with the CAS committee co-chair, Trent Amonett, and submitting a safety issue via the Safety Concern Reporting tool (<https://cas.wsu.edu/safety/report-safety-concern/>) is also encouraged.
 - c. Trent Amonett said he receives some Level 4 committee meeting minutes, but not many, and units are encouraged to send their Level 4 safety committee meeting minutes to both Trent and Wade Lafferty.
2. Safety reporting implications associated with Academic Student Employees (ASE) were discussed. (ASEs are the scholars formally known as “grad students”.)
 - a. ASEs are unique in that they perform work both as employees and as students. It is important to differentiate between the two on an Incident Report because employees are eligible to submit worker’s comp claims through L&I while students are not.
 - b. Trent Amonett mentioned that differentiating between student and employee is simple enough for Teaching Assistants, but Research Assistants working in a lab are a different matter.

Pat Carter said that the College is working on a model where ASEs will have specific position descriptions for the employee portion of their work on campus, making it much easier to determine whether a given ASE is working as an employee or working as a student.

Shawn Ringo asked if the CAS model could be shared with other colleges, and Pat Carter answered in the affirmative.

- c. Shawn Ringo brought up the subject of local medical providers that take L&I insurance, as all do not.

- d. ASEs may use Student Health for WSU, work-related injuries, including those that may lead to an L&I claim.
 - i. Faculty and staff may not seek medical attention at WSU Student Health.
- e. To search for local medical providers who accept L&I insurance, follow the below link.
 - i. <https://secure.lni.wa.gov/provdir/>

OTHER SAFETY, HEALTH AND SECURITY TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Whitman County Public Health:
 - Pertussis health alert on WSU campus.
 - <https://whitmancountypublichealth.org/assets/globals/WCPH-Press-Release-Pertussis-10.2.24.pdf>
 - Students and employees are encouraged to stay home if sick.
- Students and employees can report a safety concern anonymously via the below link.
 - <https://cas.wsu.edu/safety/report-safety-concern/>
- Free COVID tests are available again to the public.
 - <https://covidtests.gov>

SUBMITTED BY NAME		DATE SUBMITTED
Trent Amonett		Oct. 23, 2024
ADMINISTRATOR NAME AND TITLE	ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE	DATE
Courtney Meehan, Interim Dean College of Arts and Sciences		10/28/2024