

Trent Amonett, Elected Co-Chair
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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	
Davis, Chelsea	Bear Center	E	X	
Harty, JJ	Fine Arts	E	X	
Heyns, Sheila	Institute for Shock Physics	E	X	
Jackson, Doug	Technical Services	E	X	
Jess, Scott	School of the Environment	E	X	
Johnson, Ed	School of Biological Sciences	E	X	
Kan, Yuwei	Chemistry	E	X	
Keane, Chris	Physics & Astronomy	E	X	
Knaak, Charles	School of the Environment	E		X
Lafferty, Wade	College of Arts and Sciences	M	X	
Makin, David	Criminal Justice	E	X	
Meehan, Courtney	College of Arts and Sciences	M	X	
Rollins, Kris	SLCR	E	X	
Sorensen, Shaun	School of Music	E	X	

GUESTS

NAME	DEPARTMENT	TITLE
Anderson, Doug	Environmental Health & Safety	Fire Safety Manager
Ringo, Shawn	Environmental Health & Safety	Director

INCIDENT REPORTS AND SUPERVISOR’S ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORTS RECEIVED

Trent Amonett noted that several incident reports had been prepared for discussion but would be carried over to the next and final meeting of the academic year. He apologized for the delay.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM REVIEW, UPDATES, AND IMPROVEMENTS

No specific updates were provided on individual Accident Prevention Program chapters beyond the discussion of changes to Chapter 16.5 (see SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SECURITY TOPICS DISCUSSED AND PROMOTED).

SAFETY INSPECTIONS PERFORMED

None were reported for the current period. Trent Amonett indicated that five formal EH&S-accompanied lab inspections had been completed to date in the college, with additional ones scheduled or planned (including in SBS, Physics and Astronomy, and possibly Anthropology). He expressed satisfaction with how the inspections had gone so far.

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SECURITY TOPICS DISCUSSED AND PROMOTED

Trent Amonett reminded the committee that the OSHA 300A summary forms (Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses) had been posted on all unit safety bulletin boards as required on February 1 and must remain posted through April 30 (or the end of the day on April 30).

Shawn Ringo provided context on the OSHA 300A postings. He explained that the form summarizes recordable incidents, which include cases involving days away from work due to a workplace injury, restricted job duties, or medical treatment beyond first aid. He clarified the definition of treatment beyond first aid with examples: a tetanus shot and bandage is first aid, but prescription antibiotics, stitches, a rigid cast, or brace constitute treatment beyond first aid. Shawn Ringo noted that EH&S works with HRS, medical leave, and accommodations staff to evaluate incidents for recordability. He reported that the university's overall recordable incident rate for 2025 remained very low (similar to the prior year's exceptionally low rate of 1.1 per 100 employees). Slips, trips, and falls continued as the leading cause of injuries, followed closely by incidents in which people walked into objects. Shawn Ringo encouraged greater awareness and attention while moving about campus. The group briefly discussed work-relatedness determinations for workers' compensation coverage, noting that injuries occurring while performing assigned duties (such as walking to teach a class) are generally covered, while personal activities (such as going to lunch at the CUB) typically are not.

Doug Anderson led a discussion on emergency lighting in laboratory spaces, prompted by observations during recent inspections in Fulmer Hall. He noted that many labs contain small square emergency egress lights mounted above the doors that are old and no longer functional. Code does not require emergency lighting inside laboratories themselves because they are not classified as A-occupancy spaces (typically fewer than 50 occupants) and are neither corridors nor stairwells. Hallways and stairwells do have emergency lighting tied to backup feeders that activates automatically. However, Doug Anderson pointed out that many labs—particularly older spaces such as Fulmer Synthesis and Vibration-Free Labs—contain significant hazards

(chemicals, crowded layouts, limited windows) where loss of power would leave occupants in complete darkness, creating navigation and safety concerns. He proposed replacing the outdated square lights with modern battery-backup “bug-eye” LED egress lights that would provide 90 minutes of illumination. These would likely be a departmental expense, though Facilities might share costs in some cases, especially if the fixtures were original to the building or a prior remodel. Doug Anderson offered to work with departments to identify high-priority locations and prepare a proposal for Facilities. Examples from other buildings were noted: newly renovated labs in Abelson and Eastlick generally lack room-level emergency lighting, while some older spaces (e.g., certain rooms in Fulmer with sliding glass doors) still have functional older units. Trent Amonett confirmed that Old Fulmer and the Fulmer Annex appear to have no emergency lighting inside the labs themselves, only in hallways. The committee discussed the practical challenges of navigating dark labs with hazards and agreed the topic warranted further departmental consideration and possible coordination with Facilities.

Trent Amonett reviewed proposed revisions to APP Chapter 16.5 (Hazardous Area Safety Inspection chapter), which had previously been approved. He explained that the original version placed significant responsibilities on unit safety committees for scheduling formal inspections and accompanying EH&S and the PI during walkthroughs. After conducting five formal inspections, Trent Amonett determined this approach created an undue administrative burden on committee members. He proposed shifting all scheduling responsibility to himself as College Safety Coordinator to serve as a single point of contact for EH&S. Unit safety committees would still be welcome to participate if they wished, but participation would no longer be required. Trent Amonett also proposed strengthening Chapter 16.5 language on follow-up documentation and corrective-action tracking for inspection findings. The committee expressed strong support for the changes. Ed Johnson and Wade Lafferty agreed that relying on unit committees for detailed checklist evaluations was impractical given the expertise required and potential political sensitivities within departments. Chris Keane confirmed that allowing volunteer participation for unit safety committees in formal inspections addressed his concerns. The group noted that the formal inspections conducted to date had been positive experiences, with many labs appearing well-prepared and improvements visible. Trent Amonett stated he would revise the chapter accordingly and redistribute it for a vote. He also reminded everyone that all Tier 2 labs and Tier 1 labs not receiving a formal inspection this year must complete their annual self-inspections soon as the deadline was January 31. Completed Lab Safety Inspection Checklist forms should be routed to the unit chair/director, unit safety committee chair, and himself. Pat Carter indicated she would send unit-specific lists of Tier 1 and Tier 2 labs to assist with compliance. Doug Anderson encouraged units to contact him or Shawn Ringo with questions during self-inspections.

OTHER SAFETY, HEALTH AND SECURITY TOPICS DISCUSSED

Trent Amonett reported a recent incident in which authorities believe a drone struck the skywalk between Heald and Abelson Halls, breaking a window. Pat Carter noted that a drone company had trucks on campus the same day and provided photographs. Shawn Ringo confirmed the flight was not approved. He reviewed WSU's drone policy: all flights on campus require prior approval through the WSU Police Chief; commercial or work-related flights require an FAA Part 107 remote pilot certificate; recreational flights are permitted but must still be approved and follow all FAA rules (no flights over people unless the drone is under 0.55 lbs or specially authorized, altitude limits, transponder requirements, etc.). Shawn Ringo noted that WSU maintains drone-detection technology that performs especially well on common models such as DJI Mavics and that certain areas (e.g., Martin Stadium on game days, proximity to the airport) have additional restrictions. The committee expressed surprise at the collision given modern collision-avoidance systems and discussed the need for continued vigilance and enforcement of the approval process.

Trent Amonett reminded the committee that one additional meeting remains for the academic year, which he plans to schedule in April. The meeting adjourned with thanks to all participants.

SUBMITTED BY NAME		DATE SUBMITTED
Trent Amonett		Mar. 6, 2026
ADMINISTRATOR NAME AND TITLE	ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE	DATE
Courtney Meehan, Dean College of Arts and Sciences		3/25/2026