

# University Safety & Environmental Committee

## 9/19/24 Meeting Minutes

### Members In Attendance:

Mr. Fred Nichols – Director, University Police

Mr. Matt Bennett – Appalachian Center for Craft

Ms. Irene Sullivan – Proxy for Ms. Karen Lykins – Chief Communications Officer,  
Communications & Marketing

Mr. Richard Rand – Proxy for Dr. Sid Bundy – Assistant Professor, Accounting

Mr. Erik Callahan – Proxy for Mr. Rob DeCheske – Director of Environmental Health &  
Safety

Dr. Chad Rezsnyak – Associate Professor, Chemistry

Dr. Jonathan Wiley – Assistant Professor, Counseling & Psychology

Dr. Neal Hunt – Director, Research & Economic Development, *Committee Chair*

Ms. Donna Walls – Administrative Associate 3, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Mr. Steve Ewing – Logistics Supervisor, Facilities & Business Services

Ms. Irene Mauk – Administrative Associate 3, Environmental Sciences

Ms. Elisabeth Humphrey – Director, College of Engineering

Mr. Braxton Westbrook – SGA Representative

Mr. Dan Warren – AVP Facilities & Business Services, *Committee Executive Officer*

Mr. Josh Hemphill – Facilities & Business Services, *Committee Administrative Services*

### Absent Members: *Link to meeting recording emailed to absent members*

Mr. David Dan – Assistant Professor, Chemistry

Mr. Kevin Vedder – AVP of Human Resources

Mr. Josh Edmonds – Director of Housing Facilities (UHRL)

Dr. Edward Beason – Interim Director, Student Affairs

Ms. Claire Myers – SGA Representative

Dr. Abdul Momin – Assistant Professor, Agriculture

Dr. Jim Baier – Assistant Professor, Agriculture

1. Meeting was called to order and a quorum was perceived at 11:16AM by Executive Officer, Dan Warren.
2. Executive Officer, Dan Warren asked present committee members to introduce themselves.
3. Executive Officer, Dan Warren entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Irene Mauk and seconded by Donna Walls. With no objections, motion passed.
4. Executive Officer, Dan Warren entertained a motion to approve the 3/7/24 minutes. Motion was made by Matthew Bennett and seconded by Neal Hunt. With no objections, motion passed.
5. Executive Officer, Dan Warren welcomed the new committee members.

6. Subsequent meeting dates have been scheduled for 10/10/24, 12/19/24, 1/30/25, 3/6/25. Executive Officer, Dan Warren advocated for an in-person option be added to future meeting invites and to use the conference room going forward.
7. Executive Officer, Dan Warren entertained nominations for FY25 Committee Chair. Due to no nominations given, all eligible committee members were put into a hat and Neal Hunt was drawn out as the new committee chair. Dan Warren entertained a motion to approve the nomination. Motion was made by Fred Nichols and seconded by Chad Rezsnyak. With no objections, motion passed.
8. Old Business
  - a. Review Fiscal Year 24 Annual Report
    - University Policy 191, Personal Conveyance Vehicles – Per Dan Warren, is being pushed forward to approval.
    - Pedestrian Roadway Project – Per Dan Warren, this project is getting close to conclusion.
    - Security Enhancement Funding – Per Dan Warren, this project is still ongoing.
    - Craft Center Risk Assessment – Per Matthew Bennett, they are still waiting to hear back. Security on 3<sup>rd</sup> shift has been put in place which provides 24/7 monitoring.
    - Tactile Strip Installation – Per Dan Warren, 23 strips were installed, with the majority of them being installed closer to the east side of campus along Dixie.
    - Streetlights on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Dixie Avenue – Per Dan Warren, the President's office is working with the city to improve the intersections on the perimeter city streets that surround the campus. There is a project being developed by TDOT to improve the crosswalks and traffic patterns associated with Willow.
9. New Business
  - a. Executive Officer, Dan Warren brought up concerns about foot traffic combined with vehicular traffic over by the temporary parking lot next to North Willow Avenue. There have been complaints about the entrance on the wings up wayside being too close to the intersection. This summer the entrance was relocated further down the road in an effort to reduce the amount of risk in this location. Crosswalk signs were also installed due to complaints of vehicles not paying attention to pedestrians walking from the parking lot to the sidewalk.
  - b. Executive Officer, Dan Warren and Steve Ewing are investigating and updating the crosswalks across campus with fresh, more durable paint. They are also investigating more long-term options such as stop bars as the paint on the crosswalks fade within a year.
  - c. Executive Officer, Dan Warren states that along North Whitney Street a significant number of trees along the fence line of the lay down warehouse area are being removed to be able to install a gravel pathway.

- d. Executive Officer, Dan Warren brought forth a long-term solution coming to the parking lot which is currently under design and is being coordinated with the TDOT project, White Willow, to build a new parking lot.
10. Status of EHS Projects – Erik Callahan (on behalf of Rob DeCheske)
- a. Per Erik Callahan, annual safety trainings and online trainings have been underway with staff.
  - b. Lab Inspections are in process.
  - c. Per Erik Callahan, if labs require welding, soldering, or braising, EHS can be requested to come and evaluate the space for fire safety and set the facility up as a permanent hot work area.
11. Executive Officer, Dan Warren entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Chad Rezsnyak and seconded by Fred Nichols. Without objection, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM.