



**UCL**



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was reported that this was an ongoing phased programme of works and a discussion was taking place to understand what a trial might look like.

- 43.3 Regarding minute 37.3: report the noise produced by the mechanical ventilation in the security operations room to the Estates customer helpdesk. This had been done and Estates Division were investigating the matter.
- 43.4 Regarding minute 38.3: Provide more evidence that the risk of Covid-19 transmission through touching surfaces is lower compared to aerosol transmission. The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee had provided a link to a web article on transmission of Covid-19 in indoor environments that was recommended by the Chair, Chemical Safety Sub-Committee.
- 43.5 Regarding minute 38.4: Remind departments to undertake Covid-19 compliance inspections of their buildings. This was to be included in the next edition of My Safety Matters, to be issued on 28 February.

## **Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion**

### **44 Covid-19 update**

- 44.1 The Convenor reported that with remaining government restrictions being

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available a change in culture would be promoted to discourage anyone with symptoms of anything infectious from attending the campus.

- 45.2 The Trade Unions raised the issue of the effect of this culture change on staff sickness absence. The Chief People Officer stated that paid special leave for COVID-19 related illness was still in place, but absence processes would need to be reviewed and the results of the review would come to a future meeting. It was agreed that a summary of Covid-19 absence (including period of absence) since the onset of tracking would be provided at the next meeting.
- 45.3 The Committee formally thanked the team who had supported UCL's testing centres since 2020.

**46 Asbestos management plan review (Paper 4-21)\***

- 46.1 Ms Jane Adamson presented a paper summarising the changes to UCL's Asbestos Management Plan.
- 46.2 The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee added that there would be increased focus on managing control of asbestos with the creation of the new role of Assistant Director of Compliance and Performance.
- 46.3 The Committee approved the changes to the Asbestos Management Plan.

**47 GM & Biological Safety Sub-Committee quarterly report (Paper 4-22)\***

- 47.1 Mr Stephen Moore presented a paper providing key updates and reporting performance for the first quarter of the academic year 2021/22.
- 47.2

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47.6 The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee stated that he was aware of the importance of improved integration between Estates Division and CL3 laboratory managers and was introducing staff roles involving closer working with departments.

**48 Quarterly performance report (Paper 4-23)\***

48.1 Mr Dev Agarwal presented a report on health and safety performance data for the first quarter of the academic year 2021/22.

48.2 Regarding the number of incidents of cuts occurring especially in undergraduate dissection programmes, the Trade Unions noted the rising cases among the general population of serious illness caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria and asked that information be provided on a standardised treatment to mitigate the risk to students of infection considering the potential for antibiotic resistance.

48.3 The Chief People Officer reported that a campaign was underway to try to raise the completion rate of online mandatory safety training to 95% compliance over the next few months.

**49 Fire Safety and Fire Risk Management Standard (Paper 5-28)**

49.1 The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee presented a new fire safety and fire risk management standard, the aim of which was to encourage and promote the safe management of departmental work activities to reduce the risk of fire incidents.

49.2 The Trade Unions emphasised the need for an effective method of making teaching staff aware of their responsibilities in avoiding overcrowding in lecture theatres. The Director, Sustainability suggested that information and training in their responsibilities be targeted at discrete groups of duty holders.

49.3 The Convenor requested that a policy on evacuation procedures and a communication plan be developed.

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- 49.6 A member reported that a request to repair damaged fire doors in his department's building was being delayed due to purchasing system issues. The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee agreed to investigate.

## **50 Items for discussion from the Trade Unions (Paper 5-29)**

- 50.1 The Trade Unions asked for a commitment that staff at higher risk from COVID-19 (as defined by the NHS) be allowed to delay a return to campus until infection rates in London fall below 0.3 per cent; that they be provided with FFP2 respirators when they do return; and that those protections be extended to staff who share a household with someone who is immuno-compromised.
- 50.2 In response the Convenor referred to UCL's guidance which supported staff whose immune system meant that they were at higher risk of serious illness if they became infected with COVID-19, or lived with someone in this group, to work remotely. In cases where people with other conditions felt at higher risk of infection, managers should refer them to Workplace Health who could provide a report to advise whether working from home was appropriate.
- 50.3 The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee added that FFP2 masks were still available across the campus.
- 50.4 The Trade Unions sought a commitment to maintain a staff canteen at the Institute of Education. The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee agreed to ask the Director (Estates Development) to discuss the matter with the Institute of Education estates team.
- 50.5 The Trade Unions requested that the importance of staff rest and eating areas be discussed by the University Management Committee (UMC). The Convenor asked that as a first step the subject be included in the Estates masterplan, and this be brought to the Committee for review. The findings of the last review of eating and rest facilities would be sent to The Chair, Fire Safety Sub-Committee.

## **Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information**

### **51 Any other business**

- 51.1 Due to the absence of the author, the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) paper was postponed to the March meeting.

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51.2 A Safety Moments talk given to Estates by a safety adviser had been much appreciated and generated considerable interest.

The meeting finished at 11.25am