

University Safety & Environmental Committee

9/18/25 Meeting Minutes

Members In Attendance:

Mr. Josh Edmonds – Manager, Housing & Residential Life
Mr. Kevin Vedder – AVP, Human Resources
Mr. Fred Nichols – Director, University Police
Dr. Edward Beason – Director, Student Affairs
Mr. Matt Bennett – Team Lead, Appalachian Center for Craft
Ms. Irene Sullivan – Administrative Services Specialist II, Communications & Marketing
Dr. Sid Bundy – Assistant Professor, Accounting
Mr. David Hobbs – Administrative Services Specialist III, EHS
Mr. Dylan Duvall – Proxy for Dr. Chad Rezsnyak – Associate Professor, Chemistry
Dr. Jonathan Wiley – Assistant Professor, Counseling & Psychology
Dr. Abdul Momin – Assistant Professor, Agriculture
Dr. Jim Baier - Assistant Professor, Agriculture
Dr. Neal Hunt – AVP, Research & Economic Development
Ms. Sonya Haney – Budget Planning & Management Coordinator IV, College of Engineering
Mr. Steve Norris – Team Lead, Facilities-Locksmith
Ms. Joni Gilmore – Administrative Services Coordinator II, College of Emerging & Integrative Studies
Ms. Kimberly Hanna – Dean, School of Nursing
Mr. Elijah Tidwell – Proxy for Mr. Braxton Westbrook – SGA Representative
Mr. Dan Warren – AVP Facilities & Business Services, *Committee Executive Officer*
Ms. Michele Chumley – Facilities Administration Coordinator II, *Committee Administrative Services*

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

Mr. David Dan – Assistant Professor, Chemistry
Ms. Claire Myers - SGA Representative

1. Meeting was called to order, and a quorum was perceived at 11:00AM by Committee Executive Officer, Dan Warren.
2. Executive Officer Dan Warren welcomed the committee members and thanked them for attending and contributing, as well as thanking them for attending in person when possible.
3. Executive Officer Dan Warren entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Elijah Tidwell and seconded by Neal Hunt. With no objections, motion passed.
4. Executive Officer Dan Warren entertained a motion to approve the 3/13/25 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Elijah Tidwell and seconded by Abdul Momin. With no objections, motion passed.
5. Opening comments from Executive Officer Dan Warren included his optimism for this committee to elicit change on campus considering the recent change in staffing in the EHS department. The current members in the EHS department have the motivation to work effectively with this committee to elicit change on campus
6. Executive Officer Dan Warren consulted with calendars for Facilities and those present to possibly change this committee's meeting dates to Tuesdays as a request from the Chemistry department. However, the change was not feasible and entertained a motion to

approve the meeting dates below. Motion was made by Elijah Tidwell and seconded by Neal Hunt. With no objections, motion passed.

- a. 12/11/25
- b. 2/12/26
- c. 3/12/26

7. Executive Officer Dan Warren inquired about any volunteers to hold the position of Committee Chair for FY26. David Hobbs volunteered for Committee Chair. Dan Warren entertained a motion to approve David Hobbs as Committee Chair. Motion was made by Ed Beason and seconded by Josh Edmonds. With no objections, motion passed.

8. Old Business

- a. Executive Officer Dan Warren reviewed the FY25 Annual Report and Miscellaneous Old Business.

- Dan Warren reviewed pedestrian safety with the status of the stairs that will bridge between Wharf-Ellington and Stonecipher Lecture Hall: the preliminary design is currently complete; they are working on bid documents and then it will be going out for bid. A question was asked about the possibility of making it accessible, with possibly a ramp. Dan Warren stated that while they support that, unfortunately it is not feasible without major renovations.
- Dan Warren discussed the Radiation Safety Officer position. There was a candidate who declined their offer. Dan acknowledged the critical nature of that position and that there would be more attention to that role.
- Dan Warren updated everyone on the elevator upgrades at Prescott (north end), and the RUC; they are nearly complete. Dan Warren stated that there would always be at least one elevator running during the upgrade. At Regions the freight elevator is currently down, demolition is complete, and the install has begun. They will move on to the lobby elevator at Regions once the freight elevator is complete.

9. New Business

- a. Miscellaneous New Business –

- Crosswalk Tactile Strips: installed and spent \$23,000 on thermoplastic marking across campus, which is reflective and should last longer than the painting that was traditionally done that lasted not quite a full year.
- Sidewalks: Once the new concrete contractor is in place projects can continue. Dan Warren shared a lesson learned from MTSU with pavers: you can't have an opening between pavers of more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch or high heels will get stuck. MTSU had to pull up pavers and replace them due to that issue. Dan has our technicians being proactive and looking for potential hazard areas and utilizing a product called Sika which is a sidewalk caulk as well.
- Additionally, we have a student this year that is in a wheelchair and unfortunately took a fall where she was not aware there was a sudden 90-degree elevation change. We will be using blue to mark the areas of 0 elevation change so that she knows where to exit. Based on funding we will hopefully be able to expand areas on campus that are marked.

- Dan Warren shared that the Willow Widening project that is scheduled to begin in 2028 should include a new traffic light at Willow and The Burn, as well as a median island and turn lanes.
- Dan Warren shared that there were two new Blue Light phones installed at the band practice stand in Walton Park and at the back of Foundation Hall. These are attached to the structure with a blue light on top.
- Dan Warren shared that he and Fred Nichols are part of the TTU Emergency Preparation Meetings through the Putnam County Emergency office to address/identify safety concerns we have. The University President reached out to Brandon Smith who is the Putnam County Emergency Manager to start this.
- *Irene Sullivan inquired if it was possible to get a trash can and bench installed where the shuttle stop is at Foundation Hall. Dan Warren stated he would see what could be done.*
- A question was posed about the steam causing scorched areas. Dan Warren explained that our steam distribution is buried underground and is expensive to repair. There is an area with a leak in the condensate line due to pressure being increased from 110 PSI to 130 PSI. They are working with an engineer to add additional insulation. There are also two areas by East Stadium and BFA that have a similar situation and there is funding to repair those, \$400,000.
- Dan Warren also shared the steam that we see coming out of manhole covers after rain is water intrusion, water hitting hot steam pipe. This past summer during the two-week steam outage they tried a product to treat a sample of the manhole covers and it worked. There is not funding right now to treat additional manhole covers currently.

10. Status of EHS Projects – David Hobbs

- a. David shared there are two main goals over the next 3-6 months.
 - Institutional Gap: safety. In previous years the committee has had a narrow scope. The intention is to use this committee to address deficiencies/compliance issues as identified in their gap analysis. We can prioritize issues to address as well.
 - Overhaul of department procedures: Safety Manual transparency of what is changing. They will request this committee to review policy and make it specific to Tech.

11. Other Such Matters- none

12. Executive Officer Dan Warren entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jonathan Wiley and seconded by Elijah Tidwell. Without objection, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:43AM.