The JHSC Management co-chair Tony Lackey, chaired the meeting. Given the special nature of the meeting, quorum was not required (although it was attained).

Information #1. Tony provided an update on the Return To Campus activities.

We remain in lockdown and the lockdown was extended to June 2nd. We are waiting for an update from the provincial government. Ancillary and building operations would be impacted prior to the fall. There are currently preliminary discussions with athletics about summer camps as May 18th the province released new guidelines pertaining to overnight camps and outdoor education centres. Day camps were not mentioned.

Planning groups are still working diligently to plan for the fall. RTC committee is looking at operational items. Flexible work arrangements group (CUFA) should be coming out with guidelines, policies, and procedures soon. Nancy Delcellier is also on a Return to Classroom committee to discuss the safe return to classes and what policies and procedures will be in order. Suzanne Blanchard is leading the Academic Administrative Offices committee to discuss bringing departmental administrative staff back safely.

Based on the Return to Campus Recovery Strategy presentation last week, there were a lot of great questions and issues raised. This is currently being worked on. There are approximately 80 items on the RTC Action list.

Carleton held an AstraZeneca vaccination clinic and were able to administer vaccinations to about 200-300 members of our community. The clinic was halted due to lack of response. This was likely related to the government’s announcement to the AstraZeneca health concerns. Ottawa Public Health has committed that once the supplies allow, we will be provided with the Pfizer, Moderna and/or possibly the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to administer in additional clinics on campus. Vaccine campaign is underway to highlight the benefits of being vaccinated.

Steve Levitt, General Counsel spoke to the Council of Ontario Universities on May 18th discussing whether vaccinations can be required and how to formulate a vaccination policy. Will likely be difficult to formulate a mandated vaccine policy. More information should be available for the next meeting regarding legal opinion and decisions around a vaccine policy.

The following questions were submitted by CUPE2424. Nancy provided the responses

Q1 – We heard Carleton will be providing kits with masks and hand sanitizer. Are there options for staff to receive additional PPE (i.e., face shields)? Carleton is providing Personal Care Kit (2x 3-ply cloth face covers and refillable hand sanitizers). If there are specific situations where it is required (i.e., work that requires individuals with the public who do not wear a mask, or routinely working within less than 2 metres together), they will work with EHS to complete a risk assessment to identify if there is a requirement for additional PPE such as a face shield and safety glasses.
Q2 - Is additional PPE the responsibility of the department? Will they get adequate funding? PPE that the university is requiring is provided for free (face covering). Departments wishing for additional PPE will need to put their requests through E-Shop. If additional PPE is required for specialized areas or labs, this is the responsibility of the department.

Q3 - Staff were told they will be responsible for cleaning and/or sanitizing areas used by students. What are the expectations surrounding WHIMIS training and what kinds of products will be provided?
A) Employees are required to clean and disinfect their own side of a barrier when working face-to-face with students. On the students’ side of the barrier, this is the contract cleaner’s responsibility as they will be cleaning common areas of spaces at the end of each day. Laboratory settings will be a mix of technical staff and students cleaning shared spaces and equipment.
B) WHIMIS training will not be required as the products that are being supplied diluted (Virex II 256). Once diluted they are not subject to WHIMIS regulations.

Q4 – Concerns around disinfectant fogging and whether there are safety and health implications of chemicals? The term has been clarified and termed as electrostatics application of disinfectant where it uses diluted Virex II 256. This is legal and non-hazardous. There is another stronger product used when there is a confirmed positive case, however this has strict guidelines as to what, where, when, why and whom can use it and restricts people from being around when being used given it is a WHIMIS controlled product.

Q5 – Will there be contact tracing requirements for students or visitors to an office? No – offices will not be required to track guests. The University is currently working with the Thrive Health App, (currently being used by other universities such as the University of Toronto), to have the Carleton community scan QR codes to sign into a building. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Q6 - Will students who visit an office be required to have their temperatures taken? No – Ottawa Public Health does not recommend this. The measures we have in place provide sufficient risk mitigation.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021, at 10:00 AM, Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment