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# SUSTAINABLE LABS WORKING GROUP (SLWG)

Notes from meeting January 12, 2016 2:00-3:30 pm, 3610 McTavish, Room 430

Present:

- x Handwashing soap new Canadian legislation is apparently impending in 2018, therefore this item on the checklist could be removed in the future as the products in question would no longer be available on the market.

Re. communications A memo about the checklist and guide would be sent from the OVPR&I (Office of the Vice Principal (Research and Innovation))

- x Anne-Marie indicated that a draft memo had been reviewed by VPR&I Rosie Goldstein, and at her recommendation this could be signed by Alvin Shrier (Chair of the University Lab Safety Committee) and Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) Yves Beauchamp (under whom sustainability and EHS resides). Christian and Wayne were to follow up with Alvin and the VPAF office with regards to this issue.
- x Christian would be listed as the contact person for those who had questions about the guide.

Inspections of Medicine were to start at the end of January. Safety Chairs had been advised earlier but an update would be sent. A total of 300-400 labs would be inspected.

Re. the

- x There were many challenges in curriculum reform
  - o In Canada, the two federal granting agencies do not fund curriculum overhaul unless curriculum research is the subject of the study (considered as a humanities research). constitutionally, the feds can fund research and the provinces fund education vs. the NSF in the US would fund everything
  - o changes in accredited programs like Medicine and Engineering are slow as these could impact accreditation, thus curriculum overhaul is only done when accreditation is on the table
  - o faculties and Deans buy-in would thus be required to allow professors dedicated time to do course redesign

In the short term, Patrick recommended that a more flexible approach could be taken, ex. making substitutions in the existing curriculum instead of a complete redevelopment of the curriculum. This would require individual changes by individual professors for individual courses, and a couple of students could be assigned to ensure that alternative procedures function as intended.

An idea for Vision 2020 then, was for McGill to provide funding to do curriculum reform for sustainability.

#### ACTION

- x EVERYONE was invited to contact AMELIA BRINKERHOFF on [Slack](#) to submit any additional ideas.

#### CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Financial Services has started Tracking and Tagging Incoming Research Equipment with an initial value of 10K and above. A memo is going out to the community in the next few days of the initiative.

Kathleen would be meeting with Stephanie to draft a needs assessment for potential collaboration with Quebec universities on a supplier for furniture and asset deployment. Adam was looking for 40 new chairs and would contact Virginie SPierre about it; the question arose as to whether a LISTFORM furniture redeployment could be used as an interim solution, as the one for IT equipment was functioning extremely well.

### ITEM 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### BRAINSTORMING SUSTAINABLE AWARD

[adjourned to next meeting]

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