Faculty of Science Research Lab Activity

Dear Colleagues,

It is pleasing that we have been able to resume research laboratory operations over the past six weeks. Thank you for your patience as we navigated the process to enable us to do this in a safe manner. I would like to highlight and acknowledge the incredible job that Ruth Appanah, Michael Silverman, Dave Carmean and King Chao have done in implementing the lab startup process. Their hardwork, and dedication to detail over the past two months has ensured the process has been as smooth as possible.

At this time there are several updates that we wanted to bring to your attention.

1. **Local Joint Health and Safety Committee Reviews**
   We wanted to alert you to a recent development in which the university has established an additional layer of oversight and your SWPs are now also being reviewed by Local Joint Health and Safety Committees. Consequently, some of you will be asked to modify your SWPs. Thank you in advance for your tolerance of this additional iteration, which I am sure will be a frustration for you and has created a significant additional volume of work in the Faculty Office.

2. **SWP Compliance**
   Now that we have a large number of labs back in operation our attention is also shifting to compliance. As you know, we have been compliance checking throughout all the Departments on a weekly basis. Generally, everyone has been very attentive to the safety guidelines and we would like to thank you for your efforts, given the importance of keeping all of our staff, students and faculty safe and healthy.

   However, there are a few items we wish to bring to your attention:

   **Signage:** There is some confusion over what signage is required in each individual workspace and we would like to clarify below.

   **Outside on your workspace door:**
• Maximum Occupancy sign
• Self-assessment checklist

*Inside your workspace:*

• A printed copy of your Safe Work Plan
• Sign-in sheet for self-assessment

**Masks**
The Faculty of Science moved to a “mandatory masks” policy on June 8th. This is a reminder that all Science personnel are expected to wear a face covering when in common areas (hallways, bathrooms, stairwells, etc.) within Science. In common lounges, so long as physical distancing and maximum occupancy requirements are observed, masks are not necessary while eating.

The university is revising its messaging regarding the use of masks to recommend their usage across campus. Consequently, you may see some university messaging that ‘recommends’ masks are worn. However, we feel that we should maintain our position that masks are mandatory for our faculty, staff and students in Science areas.

Further to this point, we are working on improving compliance with this policy with all visitors or other personnel entering Science space, e.g. contractors.

If you have any concerns or questions about either of the above points, please feel free to contact Michael Silverman (sciadr@sfu.ca) or Ruth Appanah (scdirops@sfu.ca).

Once again, thank you for your attention to the above matters as we continue to maintain our lab operations.

Kind regards
Paul