Faculty of Science - Resumption of Research Update

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to provide you with an update around the resumption of research on campus or in the field. On a positive note, as of July 6th, over 140 Safe Work Plans (SWP) in the Faculty of Science have been approved for faculty, staff and students to return to campus. Science was the first Faculty to allow people to resume work in this capacity. This, however, has presented some recent challenges that we need to make you aware of.

At the time of drafting Faculty of Science approval process, we adhered to all government regulatory guidelines and consulted with the VPR/SRS/Research on Campus Working Group at each stage of opening. The University has subsequently instituted further conditions to the reopening guidelines such that we need to expand the review process as follows;

1. The return to work guidelines that have now been approved for SFU by WorkSafe BC require that Local Joint Health and Safety Committees (LJHSC) be consulted in the process of developing and reviewing ALL Safe Work Plans. Consequently, members of the Faculty of Science Safety Committee have been given access to our web portal in order to review the SWPs.

2. We have also been advised that all SWPs will be reviewed centrally for final approval by the Research on Campus Working Group created by the VPR.

3. Employees who are defined as ‘workers’ must have the opportunity to review any SWP that includes them. ‘Workers’ are defined as members of the CUPE, Polyparty, SFUFA, Non-Union or TSSU. As a reminder, workers are given the opportunity to review the SWPs as these are distributed to them following approval from the Dean’s office. Workers may, at any time, bring forward concerns about SWPs for further review.

4. As a reminder, the Dean sent a memo out on June 8th indicating that office requests must be treated separately from use of lab space. Further to this, we are also now advised that any office request that is submitted will require the completion of a SWP. Any office requests without an SWP will be sent back for revision.

5. In light of these changes above, and even though you may have resumed research operations, it is now possible that you will be required to revise your SWP to meet additional conditions required by the LJHSC, the VPR Approval Committee or a worker identified concern.
If your SWP requires revision, you will be notified by the Dean’s office regarding what changes are needed and how you can make these changes.

If you need to add personnel or locations to your SWP

1. Go to your SWP list at the following (note you will need to sign in): [https://advance.science.sfu.ca/science/faculty-staff/access/index2nd.php](https://advance.science.sfu.ca/science/faculty-staff/access/index2nd.php)
2. Select the SWP to amend.
3. Delete or add personnel or rooms as required.
4. Click on “save changes” button.
5. Return to home page to check that changes have been saved. [https://advance.science.sfu.ca/science/faculty-staff/access/index2nd.php](https://advance.science.sfu.ca/science/faculty-staff/access/index2nd.php)
6. Print your revised SWP and replace it with the one currently in your workspace.
7. Forward a copy of this SWP to any newly added personnel.

Compliance
Beginning this week, members of the Dean’s office, LJHSC and Department designates will begin regular COVID-19 compliance inspections of workspaces.

Masks are now mandatory in common areas
Finally, after reviewing existing local and provincial policy, and observing high-risk behavior in congested areas, we are instigating a mandatory face covering policy within all Faculty of Science buildings. The use of face coverings will be required outside of individual offices or labs – this will include bathrooms, hallways, stairwells, elevators, and all common spaces. Face coverings include surgical masks, cloth masks, scarves, or bandanas, as per the BC CDC. This requirement is effective immediately.

Once again, we thank you for your cooperation as we continue to navigate and comply with safe work guidelines as they evolve.

Warm regards,

Paul