

# MEETING MINUTES

## Chemical Hygiene Committee

*Date | time* 11/18/2021 2:00 PM | *Location* Zoom

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### In Attendance

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Mark Woods, Chemistry Professor (Chair) | Scott Jaqua, Asst. Director of EHS, RSO, CHO | Lindsay Henderson, Laboratory Safety Specialist | Shuvasree Ray, Chemistry Professor | Shannon Roth, Assistant Director of Research Integrity | Kim Brown, Biology Professor | Jen Morse, ESM Professor | Drake Mitchell, Physics Professor | Becca Wilson-Ounekeo, ESM Lab Manager | Xavier Oberlander, Art Program Assistant | Ben Hughes, Student Representative from MME (Jiao Lab) | Nic Meier, Chemistry Stockroom Manager (SRTC) | Elliott Gall, MME Professor | Comedy Millar, Research Integrity Administrator | Mike Wendel, Biology Teaching Lab Manager | Special Guest: Jeff Rook, Director of EHS |

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### Absent

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Alexandra Franco, Laboratory Technician in Geology |

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### Discussion and Approval of 10/21/21 Meeting Minutes

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#### Narrative:

- Mark asked the committee to review the meeting minutes from the last meeting. The committee was asked if someone would like to motion to approve the minutes. Nic motions, Becca seconded and the full committee voted in favor to pass the meeting minutes as is.

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### Incident Report Discussion

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#### Narrative:

- There were three incidents that occurred this month. All incidents involved undergraduate students and also involved some level of medical response.
  - The first incident involved a student having some irritation in their eye. It was originally thought that maybe something could have caused this irritation that was on one of the microscope eye pieces. The student used an eye wash for 15 minutes to flush the eye. The student went to SHAC to have their eye checked out. It was later determined that the irritation was related to a Lasik eye surgery that had earlier in the month.
  - The second incident was reported by both the lab TA, as well as the biology teaching lab manager. A student had a seizure while in class. 911 was called and paramedics and fire showed up to check out the student. The student was cleared to leave and campus safety was called to escort the student home.
  - The third incident involved a step in one of the gen chem labs that has already been discussed earlier this year, which involved another reported incident. During finals steps of the copper cycle reaction (CH107), a student was decanting liquid from a flask and spilled on their glove. The supernatant was the product of adding concentrated hydrochloric acid and water to a flask containing ZnSO<sub>4</sub> and Cu solid. The supernatant spilled on the thumb of the right gloved hand, and broke through the nitrile. The student immediately let the TA know, and began rinsing under tap water. They continued rinsing for 10 minutes, with no indications of itching, burning or other skin irritation. After 10 minutes, the student dried and inspected their hands, re-gloved and returned to work in the lab.
    - Notes: More review of chemical hazards and proper decanting procedures could be covered. Potentially cutting the concentration of acid, if possible. May want to review the procedure to determine if less concentrated reactants can be substituted.

- Mark asked for a motion from the committee to have Lindsay and Nic reach out to Eric Sheagley about updating or removing this procedure from future labs. Nic motioned to approve. The committee voted all in favor. Eric will be reached out to discuss options to either replace or update this part of the lab protocol.

#### Action Items:

- Lindsay and Nic will reach out to Eric Sheagley to discuss the chemistry lab procedure that contributed to the third incident that took place this month.

#### Service Animals in the Lab Discussion

#### Narrative:

- There is a distinction between emotional support animals and service animals. The ADA mandates that service animals need to be accommodated within the classroom and the lab settings. There are strong stipulations about what can and cannot be asked about the purpose of the service animal. Only three questions are allowed:
  - Is the animal required because of a disability?
  - Has the animal been trained?
  - What service or task is the animal trained to provide or perform?
- Individuals with service animals are not required to seek an accommodation through the DRC. You may ask the student if they have reached out to the DRC, but it cannot be required.
- There is possibly a potential for conflict with certain service animals and research where animals are utilized (through an IACUC protocol). The issue would arise if the service animal is technically a predator of one of the animals used in the research.
- What do we need to do to keep the animal safe in the laboratory space?
  - Should probably be wearing PPE – booties, goggles, pet pad/blanket/coat
    - This should be added to the CHP under the PPE section
  - Who is responsible for purchasing? DRC? The students?
  - Where should these items be stored? The stockrooms at both SRTC and RLSB?
  - Should certain areas be designated in the lab to avoid them being a trip hazard? Under seat cubbies?
- It already states in the [PSU Assistance Animal Policy](#) that the student *should* be notifying their professor prior to attending the first day of class. Still, it cannot legally be required.
- Mark asked for a motion from the committee to vote on if the DRC should be required to notify, EHS, the instructor/PI, and the stockroom when it is known that a service animal will be present with a student in a lab space. Shuvasree motioned and the committee voted all in favor.

#### Action Items:

- The CHP needs to reflect some of the policy and legal issues around this topic. Mark will structure this wording for the committee to vote on.
- Jeff will continue the conversation with the DRC. Part of this will involve streamlining communication from the DRC when they are notified that a student will be using a service animal. Notification should go to EHS, as well as the instructor and the stockroom(s).
- An informational pamphlet/document needs to be created that will be standardized across (science and engineering) departments describing what to do in the event that there will be a service animal present in the lab. It will include what questions can be asked and what resources are available.
- A standardized statement for syllabi will be drafted by the CHC executive committee for the committee approval.

#### CHP Lab Room Placard Discussion

#### Narrative:

- Lindsay proposed that the placards going into labs to replace the CHP flip charts stay simple. Mark suggested a QR code. Becca recommended a website link be listed as well too.

Action Items:

- Lindsay will share the final product with the committee at the next meeting.

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Next Meeting

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1/27/2022 2:00 PM, Zoom