

MEETING MINUTES

Chemical Hygiene Committee

Date | time 12/3/2020 2:00 PM | *Location* Zoom

In Attendance

Mark Woods, Chemistry Professor (Chair) | Lindsay Henderson, Laboratory Safety Specialist | Shuvasree Ray, Chemistry Professor | Kim Brown, Biology Professor | Drake Mitchell, Physics Professor | Sarah Bartlett, Chemistry Lab Preparator | Becca Wilson-Ounekeo, ESM Lab Manager | Ben Hughes, Student Representative from MME (Jiao Lab) | Alexandra Franco, Laboratory Technician in Geology | Nic Meier, Chemistry Stockroom Manager (SRTC) | Comedy Millar, Research Integrity Administrator | Mike Wendel, Biology Teaching Lab Manager

Absent

Scott Jaqua, Asst. Director of EHS, RSO, CHO | Shannon Roth, Assistant Director of Research Integrity | Elise Granek, ESM Professor | Elliott Gall, MME Professor | Xavier Oberlander, Art Program Assistant |

Approval of the 10/29/20 Meeting Minutes

Narrative:

- Mark asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Drake motioned and Kim seconded. All were in favor for approving the meeting minutes as-is.

Update on the Roll out of the Chemical Hazard Assessment Tool

Narrative:

- Currently, there has been a beta test taking place with the new chemical inventory management system. This beta test involves only a select group of nine labs.
- The plan is to roll out the system to all of the labs that are currently housed in the former chemical inventory management system by the beginning of January.
- The hazard assessment tool will roll out at the same time with the new inventory management system.
- The committee was presented the flow chart for how chemical orders will be handled going forward from these upgrades (by the Chemistry Stockroom/EHS).
 - Chemical hazard assessments will be required for all newly purchased chemicals. This process will not capture chemicals already in the lab at this time. They will get assessed when they need to be re-ordered.
 - Chemicals will only be released to a lab member once the hazard assessment has been completed for each user of that chemical in the lab.

Action Items:

- Mark proposed introducing the hazard assessment tool to all science department faculty prior to the roll out. This will take the form of Mark and Lindsay/Scott attending a virtual faculty meeting to discuss upcoming changes.

Protocol Hazard Assessment

Narrative:

- The purpose of the protocol hazard assessment is to provide a resource for anyone performing a procedure in a lab setting so that they can go through and assess all potential risks for a new procedure before starting it. This would include chemicals, equipment, facilities, etc.
 - The challenge in developing this is how do you get people to comply?

- Things that the committee started to consider:
 - Would the first part of protocol hazard assessment involve assessing all chemicals involved in the protocol?
 - When and how often will these assessments need to be completed or updated? Scaling up reactions? Changing chemicals? Adding/removing a step?
 - Will it be required to have everything written down? And if it's required who requires it?
 - What is the best way to assure that the person who actually needs to complete a protocol assessment actually does it?
- Lindsay discussed some tips she learned at a virtual workshop entitled "Empowering Academic Researchers to Strengthen Safety Culture".
 - Lab Safety Teams – Group of grad students who are a part of chemical hygiene/lab safety subcommittee – at least one grad student from each lab who is the lab safety point person in their lab – these LST's would bring back relevant lab safety updates to their individual labs. Safety inspections would be performed by these LST's.
 - Ground up vs. top down approach...ideally both approaches would come into play for this to work effectively,
 - Both Becca (ESM) and Alexandra (Geology) noted that a program like this has the potential to be positively received – many grad students would appreciate more concrete guidelines and effective distribution of PSU's safety expectations
 - Nic suggested forming a test group; fine tuning as it rolls out and adding people as it progresses. Maybe tie it in with the roll out of the hazard assessment for a chemical
 - Universities that had enacted these LST's noted a higher sense of connection amongst the grad students working in labs.
- Going forward, the plan will be to write a fairly broadly written protocol hazard assessment tool and work towards a safety culture change.

Action Items:

- Lindsay and Nic will work on putting together a draft for a protocol hazard assessment tool before the following meeting.
- More discussion on potential grad student lab safety teams/leads needed.

Next Meeting

1/14/2021 2:30 PM, Zoom