

# MEETING MINUTES

## Chemical Hygiene Committee

*Date | time* 2/14/2020 12:00 PM | *Location* SRTC 148

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### In Attendance

Mark Woods, Chemistry Professor (Chair) | Scott Jaqua, Asst. Director of EHS, RSO, CHO | Lindsay Henderson, Laboratory Safety Specialist | Shuvasree Ray, Chemistry Professor | Sarah Eppley, Biology Professor | Drake Mitchell, Physics Professor | Sarah Bartlett, Chemistry Lab Preparator | Becca Wilson-Ounekeo, ESM Lab Manager | Xavier Oberlander, Art Program Assistant | Alexandra Franco, Laboratory Technician in Geology |

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### Absent

Shannon Roth, Assistant Director of Research Integrity | Daniel Ballhorn, Biology Professor | Elise Granek, ESM Professor | Kirk Fisher, Chemistry Stockroom Manager (CLSB) | Jessica Vinh, Student Representative from MME (Jiao Lab) | Nic Meier, Chemistry Stockroom Manager (SRTC) | Elliott Gall, MME Professor | Comedy Millar, Research Integrity Administrator | James Pankow, CEE Professor | Mike Wendel, Biology Teaching Lab Manager |

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### 12/12/19 Meeting Minute Approval

#### Narrative:

- Mark asked the committee to look through the meeting minutes from 12/12/19. Drake motioned for approval, Becca seconded and then the committee voted all in favor, with no edits needed.

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### Lab Incidents Report 12/12/19-02/14/2020

#### Narrative:

- There were four incidents (with one incident having two reports) reported this month:
  - A beaker containing 10% KOH broke while heating on a hot plate in a fume hood. This incident was almost identical to an incident that took place in the same lab last year. EHS and Chemistry Stockroom staff responded to the incident to aid in cleanup, as well as to brainstorm ideas for how to prevent this incident from happening again in the future.
    - New glassware was purchased by the lab. It was thought that the glassware could potentially be faulty, as it was all 12+ years old.
    - Mark suggested that the issue could stem from using the hot plate, as glass is a poor conductor of heat. It was suggested that the lab try using a water bath instead of a hot plate.
  - A student worker in a lab had an exposure to a radionuclide (<sup>32</sup>P) by getting some of the solution containing the radionuclide onto his glove. The material went through his glove and contaminated his hand. The supervisor was not present in the lab during the incident.
    - This student was new to this procedure and had never worked with this radioactive material before. It was suggested that the student practice with plain water before using radioactive material when using a new process.
  - A student in a teaching lab cut themselves with a scalpel blade while performing a dissection required for the class.
    - Basic first aid was performed and the student was told to follow up with SHAC if any irritation continued with the cut.
  - There was an incident in a teaching lab where one student ended up getting contaminated with another student's blood. The student who got contaminated was inserting a hematocrit tube containing another student's blood into a hematocrit counter when the tube slipped and broke, tearing the student's glove and cutting his finger.

- There has been quite a bit of follow up on this event, including sending both students to SHAC to provide a blood sample in order to test for any potential bloodborne pathogens. The TA's who teach this lab will all be re-trained and new protocols will be in place to assure this type of incident will not happen again.

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### Discussion on Committee Input on Lab Incidents

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#### Narrative:

- This topic was brought up due to the fact that the committee had to review pretty much the same exact incident in the same lab two years in a row. What should the committee's role be in providing feedback on these types of incident, in order to prevent them from happening again?
  - Lindsay currently follows up with whoever reported the incident (if a contact was listed) as it stands now, in order to provide feedback or help to find a solution to prevent the incident from happening again.
  - It was agreed by the committee that we don't want to do anything to encourage people to not report their incidents. It is hard enough to get people to report incidents as it is. This train of thought is in line with the committee's view on not being a punitive based resource.

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### Hazard Assessment Discussion

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#### Narrative:

- Two kinds of hazard assessments were discussed as being a part of the PSU Chemical Hygiene Plan, one for protocols and one for individual chemicals. There currently isn't a great system in place for validating these hazard assessment, but starting somewhere is better than not starting at all.
  - A Google form was created based off of the ACS template for chemical hazard assessments. It is currently very long and should be consolidated by input from the committee.
  - The results from this assessment would be available to the Chemistry Stockroom staff so that they can verify that an assessment has been performed before a new chemical is being picked up by lab workers. They would not be asked to verify that it was done correctly, it would be expected that the PI would do that.
  - The committee reviewed the form to check for what it might be missing and what could be removed.

#### Action Items:

- Lindsay will edit and remove all questions discussed by the committee. The updated form will be reviewed at the next meeting. Committee still needs to decide what the CHP will state about hazard assessments.

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### Lab Assessments To-do This Month

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#### Narrative:

- Lindsay informed the committee that the lab assessments agreed upon at the December meeting didn't end up taking place, so they will be scheduled for this month. They are:
  - ESM Teaching Lab SRTC 207 with Sarah B, Mark, Lindsay. Contact Becca.
  - Goforth Lab SB1 206/207 with Sarah B, Mark, Lindsay. Contact Andrea Goforth.
  - Soils Lab CH S9-S13 With Alexandra, Becca, Lindsay. Contact John Bershaw.

#### Action Items:

- Lindsay will reach out to individuals who are performing assessments and also those whose spaces are being assessed this month to get these scheduled on the calendar.

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### Next Meeting

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3/12/2020 2:00 PM, SRTC 148