

MEETING MINUTES

Chemical Hygiene Committee

Date | time 5/19/2021 3:00 PM | *Location* Zoom

In Attendance

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

Absent

Kim Brown, Biology Professor | Sarah Bartlett, Chemistry Department Manager | | Alexandra Franco, Laboratory Technician in Geology |

Voting on 04/21/21 Meeting Minutes

Narrative:

- Mark asked the committee to review the previous meeting's minutes. Once reviewed, a motion was requested. Mike Motioned to approve the meeting minutes as is, Nic seconded the motion and then the committee unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes. All committee members who were not at the previous meeting abstained.

Discussion of Section 6.3 of the Hazard Assessment Section in the CHP

Narrative:

- Mark introduced this newly revised section, including all previous comments from the committee (in regards to this section). Further comments were requested. None were provided.
- A motion was requested to approve this section as is. Drake motioned to approve section 6.3 of the CHP, Mike seconded this motion, and then all of the committee voted in favor of approving this section.

Action Items:

- Lindsay will add this section to the CHP website, as well as update the LSL Google recruit form ASAP.

Incident Review

Narrative:

- There were two reported incidents since the previous CHC meeting.
 - The first incident was of a "deep cut on index finger from a clean metal box". The student was working in the Power Lab with another member of their capstone group to perform some tasks in order to collect data for their capstone project. They arrived before midnight and the injury occurred at 3am. They have been coming into the lab late at night for the past few weeks to ensure there are no other students working in the lab while they were working. This caused them to adjusted their sleep schedule to accommodate this. However, they claimed that they were not sleep deprived or tired. The incident occurred while the student was adjusting a strain relief clamp on a metal breaker box with a flat-head screwdriver. The screwdriver slipped and their finger was cut open by the metal edge of the breaker box. Their lab partner was able to help get the supplies needed from the

medical box in the lab to create a temporary bandage. They cleaned up the lab supplies and left to go home. The student took a nap once they got home and then went to an urgent care facility in the morning where they received several stitches for the injury.

- Scott followed up with this student to clarify some of the details. The students received permission to work at these odd hours, due to Covid and trying to maintain minimal people within the lab at any given time.
- There was considerable concern from the committee in regards to the hours that were being worked by these undergraduate students. It was generally thought that it seemed inappropriate to have undergraduate students working on campus, unsupervised at 12am.
- The second incident was a “needle-stick”. The incident occurred when the student accidentally pricked their finger with a clean needle while trying to attach the needle with the syringe. Minimal first aid was required.

Action Items:

- Scott will be doing further follow up on the first incident with Jeff Rook and Jason Podrabsky.
- The issues with incident #1 will be addressed at a future meeting:
 - Limiting hours for unsupervised, undergraduate work (in regards to Capstones specifically?)

Assessment and Chemical Inventory Criteria for Labs

Narrative:

- This topic arose to address what to do in regards to novel chemicals and small quantities. Three questions need to be addressed:
 - What are the boundaries on what requires a chemical hazard assessment (CHA) when a lab purchases a chemical?
 - In regards to quantity and concentration, if in doubt do the assessment anyway. Until you have performed the CHA, you do not necessarily know how hazardous something is.
 - When performing a CHA on a kit, Nic suggested that the individual focus on the item(s) that has the most known hazards.
 - What happens if a chemical is gifted or sent as a sample to a lab?
 - People should be entering these samples into the inventory and they should do a CHA. It is OK if the CHA says “hazards unknown”, but that the precautions are that you treat the substance as if it is hazardous.
 - What happens if a lab makes something novel? And at what point should this go into the chemical inventory and when does it need a chemical hazard assessment?
 - This pertains almost exclusively to the Chemistry department. It does not seem feasible for labs to do a CHA for each of these novel compounds, but they should go in the chemical inventory.
 - Nic brought up the issue with lab closeouts. Each item needs to be labeled in order to prevent obstacles with processing waste for the lab.

Next Meeting

TBA

Potential future agenda items (early new school year):

- Undergraduate researchers after hours
- (Continue discussion) labeling standard for new compounds