

MEETING MINUTES

Chemical Hygiene Committee

Date | time 2/15/2024 1:30 PM | *Location* Zoom

In Attendance

Mark Woods, Chemistry Professor (Chair) | Scott Jaqua, Asst. Director of EHS, RSO, CHO | Lindsay Henderson, Laboratory Safety Specialist and Biosafety Officer | Kim Brown, Biology Professor | Jen Morse, ESM Professor | Raj Solanki, Physics Professor | Becca Wilson-Ounekeo, ESM Lab Manager | Xavier Oberlander, Art Program Assistant | Kaleb Hood, Student Representative from MME | Ben Perkins, Geology Professor | Nic Meier, Chemistry Stockroom Manager (SRTC) | Mike Wendel, Biology Teaching Lab Manager |

Absent

Shuvasree Ray, Chemistry Professor | Annette Dietz, CEE Professor | Shannon Roth, Director, Research Integrity & Compliance Operations | Emma Duehr Mitchell, COTA Workshops Coordinator

Welcome & Introduction of New Member (Raj Solanki) & Meeting Minutes Approval

Narrative:

- The committee welcomed Raj Solanki to the committee. He is taking over for Rolf Koenenkamp, who is now retired from the physics department.
- Mark asked the committee to review the previous meetings minutes and they were unanimously voted to approve as is.

Lab Incident Review (11/30/23-2/15/24)

Narrative:

- There were three reported incidents during this time frame:
 - The first involved a water hose getting disconnected from a piece of glassware and consequently flooded the lab. Spill kit items were used and needed to be replaced.
 - The second involved a student assembling sampling lines, which included a stainless-steel tube. The steel tube was under tension while removing a sampling line, the sampling line gave way and the steel tube that was directed at the student's head hit with force, striking above the left eye. The student went to the emergency room to get checked out and needed a few stitches.
 - Scott and Lindsay followed up with the lab and implemented a few changes going forward. Since the sampling lines are changed so infrequently, it was determined that the lines would be cut and replaced, rather than pulled off. This would minimize and possible injuries.
 - The final reported incident involved a student who was using a sample preparation polishing station, with rotating sanding pads. The student dropped the sample, tried to grab the sample without stopping motion of the sanding pad, and cut their finger on the rotating pad. The student has been reminded to stop all motion before reaching into equipment.
 - The lab has also placed signage over this station to remind students about the safety precautions needed.
 - An unreported incident that took place, involved a student cutting themselves on a broken piece of glass in an O Chem teaching lab.
 - Scott mentioned another unreported incident that took place. There was a small fire in the elevator shaft in SRTC. The alarm was not sounding, but the strobes were going off. There have been some issues with the fire suppression system in SRTC. Facilities are currently working to remedy this situation.

- The building should have been evacuated, but it was not. Scott wanted to remind everyone that when strobes are going off, even if the alarm is not sounding, to evacuate the building.

Discussion on Resiliency

Narrative:

- When an unplanned event (such as a weather emergency, etc.) takes place, what do we do? There are two parts to this discussion:
 - How do we make sure that chemical-based activities, when the person who initiates it may not be able to get to the lab, are handled safely?
 - The answer will not be the same for every type of activity.
 - The CHP states that there should be labeling on all experiments left running unattended. How do we get more compliance?
 - Ben suggested a timer type system. Kim chimed in that this would be important particularly for anything you're leaving unattended that doesn't have an automatic shutoff.
 - Essential workers are often on campus and may be able to call phone number on lab door placards, if alarms are sounding.
 - Becca brought up live animal situation. IACUC manages these protocols. Could this model (IACUC guidance) be used to structure guidance for chemical experiments?
 - IACUC has federally mandated oversight. The PI must comply to the care arrangements they agree to in their protocol, even during unplanned campus closures.
 - Scott brought up the lab placarding information collection document. There are lab placards on doors with the contact information, but in the event of an emergency, the Google Sheet could be shared with others to arrange assistance in their lab spaces while not on campus.
 - Xavier asked how do we make sure that the essential workers distribute the information to the people who need it?
 - Scott says that keeping those lab placards up to date is key to this information route.
 - Should there be certain experiments that should be prohibited from starting when possible upcoming weather events may be forecasted?
 - How does high heat affect this question? Or air quality?
 - If Trimet stops running, PSU will be affected and a university closure may be considered.
 - A new generator has been installed that supplies emergency power to SRTC and Blumel (and will power emergency circuits for the VSC).
 - Could we use the work order system to assist with this?
 - There is a section in the WO where language could be added with EHS emergency contact info. **Lindsay/Scott will talk to the WO center to see if EHS can be added.**
 - **More language should be added to the CHP emergency response section on unexpected campus closures. Needs to be determined and voted on by committee.**
- How do we deal with absences on this committee? Proxies?
 - Ben suggests that the person who needs to be absent, is in charge of finding a replacement. That is how it is handled within the Geology dept.
 - Everybody that has a vote, it would be nice to have proxies for.
 - Something to keep in mind is that many departments are operating with limited staffing, so a proxy may not always be possible.

Action Items:

- **Scott/Lindsay - Work Order System needs to add EHS emergency contact/email info**

- Mark - Draft more language in regards to unplanned campus closures for the CHP

Future Discussions

Narrative:

- Minors in the lab. Two scenarios to consider:
 - Those who are working in the lab
 - Those who are in the lab because their parents are working there

Spill Kits in the Engineering Building

Narrative:

- The spill kits in the hallways in EB have been installed (and filled).
 - One in the basement (outside room 88), 2nd (central corridor), 3rd by the lockers), 4th (back corner) and 5th (central corridor) floors

Next Meeting

TBD in April, Zoom