

# MEETING MINUTES

## Chemical Hygiene Committee

*Date | time* 4/18/2024 2:30 PM | *Location* Zoom

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### In Attendance

Mark Woods, Chemistry Professor (Chair) | Scott Jaqua, Asst. Director of EHS, RSO, CHO | Lindsay Henderson, Laboratory Safety Specialist and Biosafety Officer | Jen Morse, ESM Professor | Raj Solanki, Physics Professor | Annette Dietz, CEE 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) | Cristina Kelly, Administrator, Research Integrity & Compliance Operations |

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### Absent

Shuvasree Ray, Chemistry Professor | Kim Brown, Biology Professor | Mike Wendel, Biology Teaching Lab Manager | Emma Duehr Mitchell, COTA Workshops Coordinator |

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### Welcome & Introductions

#### Narrative:

- The committee welcomed Cristina Kelly, from Research Integrity & Compliance to the committee.

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### 2/1/5/2024 Meeting Minutes Approval

#### Narrative:

- The committee was asked to review the previous meeting's minutes and then to vote to approve or deny. The committee unanimously voted to approve, with no further changes.

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### Incident Reports

#### Narrative:

- There was only one reported incident for this time period.
  - On Friday, March 1st an undergraduate student in an ESM teaching lab was working using ammonium molybdate-vanadate as color reagent to determine the phosphate content of soil and vegetation digests. The student reported that she felt an itching sensation on her upper chest near her collarbone. She looked down and noticed a chemical stain around the upper pocket on her lab coat. She took off her lab coat, informed her TA, and went to the bathroom to remove her shirt and wash off the exposed skin. The TA called Becca (ESM teaching lab manager) and asked if she should insist the student stand under the safety shower. Becca came down and spoke to the student. The student had a raised patch of skin roughly 1 cm long surrounded by a patch of reddened skin a few cm in diameter. Given the size of exposure and its location on the student's body, the student was allowed to wash herself in the bathroom, rather than use the safety shower. Becca advised the student to thoroughly rinse the area for 15 minutes. After washing the exposed skin for an unclear amount of time, the student put on a winter jacket and zipped it up to cover herself, then received permission from their TA to go home early. The students were nearly done with the lab and her partner offered to complete the rest of the measurements. The student was told to seek medical attention if the condition became worse. The TA followed up with the student over email. As of March 6th, the student reported no further irritation or persisting issues.

- Jen brought up concerns about if the safety shower is used, what clothes will the student be left with. EHS has several “shower kits” (One in the EHS office, one each in the Chemistry Stockroom in SRTC and in RLSB).
- Each teaching lab may want to keep a “shower kit” on hand and/or advise students to bring an extra set of clothes to campus with them, going forward.
  - Sample wording: each lab “must” have towels, each student in a lab “should” have a change of clothes on hand.
  - The chemistry stockroom should have emergency blankets on hand, if needed.
- The safety shower should only be used in the event of an emergency. Very little back and forth should take place. This situation was handled appropriately.

#### Action Items:

- Language should be added to the CHP (Mark’s Bon voyage)
- Discussing the safety shower use should be added in more detail to the monthly lab safety trainings:
  - When: only used in the event of an emergency, evacuate space
  - What: constitutes an emergency
  - Prepare: emergency kit (Change of clothes, towels, etc.)
  - Seek: medical assistance after (always)

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#### Committee Chair Discussion

##### Narrative:

- Mark is stepping down as Chair, after the next meeting (in May). He will also be leaving the committee at that time.
- The Committee will need to decide how to proceed in electing a new Chair for Fall 2024. FYI: The committee charge does not explicitly state that the Chair needs to be from the Chemistry department.

#### Action Items:

- Lindsay will reach out to Theresa McCormick (the Chair of the Chemistry department) to recruit an additional Chemistry Faculty member for the committee.

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#### VSC Moves Update

##### Narrative:

- Construction will be done in July (Early July). Official moves will take place at the end of August/beginning of September.
  - Many of the services (to help with the moves) that were established during the SB1 move are in place to assist for this time around as well.
- There are still two large lab spaces in VSC on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor that have not officially been designated to anyone yet.

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#### Minors in the Lab Discussion

##### Narrative:

- There are three scenarios where this situation may arise:
  - minors participating in lab activities for a specified length of time or enrolled in a course
    - some REU students fall into this category. They are typically supervised while working in the lab and trained on how to safely work in that environment.
    - Safety training should be required for these situations.
  - minors visiting a lab (such as on a tour)
  - minors who are children of a lab worker coming to campus with a parent
    - Look into Oregon’s law on unattended children

- Chemistry Department currently provides [this guidance](#) for minors in lab spaces.
- Guidance on this topic should be department specific.
  - With a more general campus guidance to reference?

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## Announcements

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### Narrative:

- Rick Tankersly, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, will be attending the first 40 minutes of the next meeting (on May 13<sup>th</sup>). It would be great to have good attendance at this meeting 😊
  - Discussion topics for Rick:
    - Lab closeouts (faculty leaves)/graduate students continuing work and then vacating the lab
    - How can the CHC send out communications on a larger scale
    - Resiliency
    - Lab Incidents

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## Next Meeting

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5/13/2024 2:00 PM, Zoom