

MEETING MINUTES

Chemical Hygiene Committee

Date | time 11/30/2023 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 | Shuvasree Ray, Chemistry Professor | Kim Brown, Biology Professor | Jen Morse, ESM Professor | Rolf Koenenkamp, Physics Professor | Annette Dietz, CEE Professor | Becca Wilson-Ounekeo, ESM Lab Manager | Kaleb Hood, Student Representative from MME | Ben Perkins, Geology Professor | Mike Wendel, Biology Teaching Lab Manager |

Absent

Shannon Roth, Director, Research Integrity & Compliance Operations | Emma Duehr Mitchell, COTA Workshops Coordinator | Nic Meier, Chemistry Stockroom Manager (SRTC) | Xavier Oberlander, Art Program Assistant |

10/26/23 Introductions and Meeting Minutes Approval

Narrative:

- Mark asked the committee to review the previous meeting's minutes. Once completed, the committee was asked to vote approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously. No edits are needed.
- Rolf is retiring and is not able to make this final meeting. We wish him well!

Lab Incident Review (10/26/23-11/30/23)

Narrative:

- Lindsay presented the lab incidents that have been reported since 10/26/23:
 - The first incident was reported anonymously by a TA in the Engineering Building. They walked into their teaching lab space and were overwhelmed by the "odor of marijuana". It turns out there was a student who works in a marijuana processing plant in the class, rather than a student being under the influence in lab. It was proposed to add a fan to the lab in order to help ventilate the space.
 - The second incident took place in an organic chemistry teaching lab. A student was stuck with the needle when they were re-capping the syringe. Luckily the syringe only contained water. The committee discussed why it was necessary for the student to be transferring water with a syringe (rather than by some other form). The TA did cover not re-capping needles, but the student somehow missed this directive. Going forward, the students will not be using a needle for this part of the lab.
 - In the Morse lab, syringes are used to sample air and need to be re-used. There is a need for guidance on how to re-cap if absolutely necessary. One handed only is the recommendation. Never use two hands.
 - The third incident involved a package that was left (by a delivery driver) out on the loading dock of SRTC. It contained a hazardous chemical. This incident re-opened the issue of there not being a loading dock manager and therefore situations like this occur from time to time.
 - This opened up the discussion for how do chemical deliveries ideally get handled? ***All chemicals *should* be purchased from the stockroom or ordered (receiving) through them.
 - The fourth reported incident involved a leaky bucket that contained ethidium bromide waste. Scott responded to the reported incident and discussed with the lab proper secondary containment. The lab member handled the cleanup of the spill with absorbent spill pads. Another point made by the committee, is that the lab should be having their waste should be picked up more frequently.

Action Items:

- Lindsay will reach out to OHSU to obtain access to their syringe safety video, in order to add it to the monthly lab safety trainings. Also, to send it to Mike and Shuvasree.
- A section on syringe safety will be added to the CHP. **Some language needs to be written and presented at the next meeting.**

Update: Annual Faculty Lab Safety Training

Narrative:

- Lindsay and Nic are continuing this discussion and avenues for disseminating it with Sarah Bartlett (in Chemistry). Sarah is looking into what will be needed to make this equitable through the faculty union.

Action Items:

- Looking at Fall 2024 for roll out.

Lab Assessment Schedule? Site Visits? Meeting Frequency/Location?

Narrative:

- How frequently do we want to meet going forward?
 - Two a quarter (on in January and February – skip March because of Spring break)
- Do we want to continue in Zoom or meet in person?
 - Keep in Zoom – unless combined with a site visit
- Do we want to tie in a site visit with an upcoming meeting?
 - There is interest in this. Possibly the Art Building? Chat with Xavier...
- Should we invite Rick Tankersly to an upcoming meeting?
 - Maybe to a Winter or early Spring meeting
- Who is next for lab assessments?
 - Solanki is on the docket. Volunteers from committee to attend?
 - New faculty member in Geology may be a possibility down the line.
 - Check-in with Ballhorn (particularly since the spill)
 - EB is currently being integrated into the PSU chemical inventory system. This may open up some opportunities for lab assessments/check-ins with Engineering folks.

Action Items:

- Lindsay will take a poll for next quarter's meeting time(s).

Graduate Student Check-out Process

Narrative:

- This has been an ongoing issue, highlighted even further with the SB1 cleanout.
 - What to do with graduate students who are going to be sticking around after the PI leaves the university?
 - What to do when a graduate student is leaving the university?
 - How can we keep unknown waste from existing (as much as possible), as well as costs down to the university?

Action Items:

- The committee will loop back to this at a future meeting.

Other Items

Narrative:

- An update from the CHC on the CHP new section was included in the RGS Bulletin. They are open to providing updates from the committee on a regular basis, perhaps quarterly?

Announcements

Narrative:

- The next lab safety training (taking place on December 15th) will take place in person and the last hour is open to all and will be a hands-on chemical spill workshop.

Next Meeting

2/15/2024 1:30 PM, Zoom