

Faculty of Science Safety Committee Meeting

May 13, 2024, ~ 2:00pm. – 3:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and Atrium 217)

Attendees:

Dean of Science Office & Meeting Chairperson - Dr. Sam Veres, Dean of Science
Dean of Science Office – Leanne Lucas, Science Safety Advisor
Department of Astronomy and Physics – Dr. Mike Dunlavy
Department of Biology – Dr. David Chiasson
Department of Chemistry - Dr. Jason Masuda, Najwan Albarghouthi
Animal Facility: Caila Henderson
Department of Geology – Mitch Kerr
Human Resources Department – Valerie Wadman
Facilities Management Department – Dennis Gillis

Minute taker – April Scheller, Psychology Department

Regrets – Dr. Tim Frasier

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 2:00pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Call for Agenda Item Additions

No additions.

2. Minutes from the February 2024 meeting

Edit to attendance names. Minutes unanimously approved and carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

3. FSSC membership review

The membership for the committee is made up of science department members with expertise in specific fields. Other department members may be invited to join meetings if their expertise is needed at that time. S. Veres moved to accept the committee membership as proposed. 2nd by J. Masuda, unanimous.

Committee members normally have three-year terms, which should be staggered to have minimal turnover in any one year.

Action Item: All voting members to please email S. Veres or A. Scheller with your preference regarding term length: 1, 2, or 3 years. term. Also please notify who will be your alternate member if you are unavailable to attend a meeting.

Meetings will be scheduled once a month with no meetings in July and August.

Action Item: All members, please update your Outlook calendars with your schedules and A. Scheller will find a time for the members to meet each month. Possibly the 3rd Monday of each month.

Action Item: S. Veres to bring forward recommendation for Vice-Chair.

4. Drinking water, Science building

The water quality was tested last July, and all samples had non-detectable levels of lead in the water. Government guidelines stipulate that lead levels not exceed 5 ug/L. Water from collected from the 1st and 5th floors of the Science Building were analyzed in this last test, with samples from both locations being below detection limit. The water filling station filters are changed 3 times a year. The next scheduled testing is November 2024 but may be done sooner. In this next round of testing would be useful to draw samples from the non-filtered taps as well as filtered water stations in Science for comparison.

5. Minor revision to SWP-014

Correction made to the SWP to indicate 4L or less. A note will be added to the SWP that HVAC plumbers are excluded.

Action Item: L. Lucas will contact Facilities Management to request chuck blocks for the doors.

6. Revision to proposed Hazard Identification and Risk Management form

A change to the form name was requested. M. Chiwawa consulted with Claire Milton on the legalities of the form and there were no concerns on her part. The form is required for all field undergraduate research activities. If a student is doing research that doesn't involve hazards or risks beyond those encountered during normal, daily living, they should complete the form and state this. The form will be available for use this summer as a fillable pdf. The risk assessment form needs edits before attaching to work instruction #11. Updates to the HIRM form approved unanimously.

Action Item: L. Lucas will add WI #11 to the list to edit soon.

7. Revision to Safety Management While Conducting Field Work (now SWP-012)

L. Lucas received feedback from M. Kerr and L. Campbell and included it in the new form. The scope, definitions and links have been updated and the drug and alcohol consumption information has been edited. The field work risk assessment checklist needs to be updated but this form will be revised first before working on the checklist. For now, the checklist will be a separate document not attached to this SWP. Updates to the form approved unanimously.

Action Item: Edit form in section 5.4 to PDF not PFD. L. Lucas will add to the form that local law regulations should be followed when outside of NS.

REPORTS

8. Safety Advisor Report

Summary of Injury/Incident Reports for Faculty of Science

Incident #	Month	Incident Summary
6802	February	<i>Chemical exposure on arm. Student's lab coat dipped in acid. They washed their arms with soap and water. Action: recommended using cuffed lab coats or elastics to keep in place.</i>
6741	February	<i>Pipette cut left hand. Slight cut on hand when tightened too much. Recommended to add signs about no tightening them too much and it can be added to the SOP.</i>
6812	March	<i>Concentrated nitro acid dropped on arm. Lab coat was not covering arm when the acid came out of the pump. Ran arm under cold water and student had some small lumps. Recommended the student be reminded to keep the sleeves down and use elastic bands or plastic sleeves is needed.</i>
6813	March	<i>Exposure to fumes. Student got dizzy went out to get fresh air and came back in. It was determined this was not a reaction the chemicals but from a medication they were taking.</i>

Action Item: L. Lucas will contact the bookstore to request that new lab coats that are stocked be cuffed.

V. Wadman requested a change to the custodial workers wearing lab coats in science due to the heat, sizing and it's a burden for them. Committee agreed that as long as there is no entry during experiments, and they read the signage that would be acceptable.

Action Item: V. Wadman will meet with Facilities to discuss further.

9. OHS & Wellness Consultant: JOHSC Activity and Information

Safety week was well attended and V. Wadman would like to see the SSC committee included in the next one. Dr. Arla Day presented on workers comp claims for psychological safety. There will be more coming out about the new policy at a later date.

The ability for all employees to sign into OSH on Brightspace is still not available.

Action Item: S. Veres will discuss with A. Sarty on opening the course up to everyone on campus.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

10. Revision to Orientation Checklist

The Lab orientation checklist has been updated by L. Lucas. There was a discussion about contact lenses allowed to be worn during research and it was determined that it is fine if

safety glasses are worn properly. An extra line on the form could indicate that lenses have the potential of increased residue on eyes. Microwaves have been added to the specialized equipment. C. Henderson will send the form for training ACC members under the aquatic's facilities to L. Lucas to be included with the document. Discuss with your supervisor if concerned.

11. **Waiver forms for science activity visitors**

A waiver form is being used for outside visitors coming to SMU for science activities, but the committee is unsure if it is required.

Action Item: S. Veres will contact Claire Milton to understand the legal implications of using the form.

OTHER BUSINESS

18. **Any other business**

No other business

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Dr. Sam Veres
Meeting Chairperson, Faculty of Science Safety Committee
Acting Dean of Science