

Faculty of Science Safety Committee Meeting

September 16, 2024, ~ 2:00pm. – 3:30 p.m.

Dean of Science Boardroom

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 Chemistry - Dr. Jason Masuda

Animal Facility: Caila Henderson

Department of Biology – Dr. David Chiasson

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: 2:05pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

Call for Agenda Item Additions

No additions.

Minutes from the May 2024 meeting

Minutes unanimously approved and carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

FSSC membership

Najwan has left SMU, S. Veres will work with Chemistry to fill the vacancy on the committee.

S. Veres will bring a recommendation to the committee to appoint a Vice Chair in his absence.

SWP 11

General updates to wording. Add OHS as a resource to the references section. L. Lucas will make the changes.

The SWP's are working/living documents and will be updated as needed.

Action Items: L. Lucas will look for a labels template and add it to the Science safety page as a resource.

REPORTS

Safety Advisor Report

Summary of Injury/Incident Reports for Faculty of Science

Incident #	Month	Incident Summary
6922	June	Pricked finger with hypodermic needle. Student washed hands and will make sure there is more space in the glove box next time.
6943	June	Broken glass, finger cut when cleaning up the glass. A piece of glass was missed and was picked up without gloves. Recommended to use gloves when cleaning up.
6945	July	Smell smoke near hot plate but was unsure if it was the hot plate. It's been used since with no problems. Facilities has been contacted to inspect it.
6964	July	Not science related but a custodial member strained back while lifting paper from a paper bin. It's recommended that a proper blue bin with a line so it doesn't go over should be requested for these moves to prevent injuries.
6947	July	Fume hood alarm malfunction. Reported to Facilities and a new part was ordered. The problem is not resolved, and more parts have been ordered.
6948	July	Lithium battery overheated. It was plugged in overnight and was a non-rechargeable battery. Security aired out the room. There was minor damage to the table and the battery pack was damaged. Recommended to have a dedicated space for charging and not to leave items plugged in unattended.
6950	August	Solution leaked through glove. Student washed hands and the glove box was patched.
6952	August	Chemical spill of unknown waste in transport cart. Proper PPE was worn to clean it and left in bucket under fume hood. Labeled and put in waste room. Recommended to put more effort into properly labeling.
6953	August	Fire extinguished caused by cigarette butt in mulch. Security could not see the activity on the camera footage. Reminder that SMU is a non-smoking campus and to report the activity when seen.

OHS & Wellness Consultant: JOHSC Activity and Information

JOSH didn't meet in May but met in June. Josh training moved to Brightspace. There is a new professional development platform and the Intro to OHS has been moved there. There may be ways to move JOHS to that platform but they may not be able to allocate enough seats so it may need to remain on Brightspace.

L. Lucas and V. Wadman are busy with risk assessment since there is no Risk Manager currently.

As of September 1, 2024, science technicians are now covered by workers compensation.

There's been some concerns outside of Science that field assessments shouldn't be needed for low risk off campus trips.

V. Wadman sent the question to Clair Milton for her legal expertise in the absence of a Risk Manager.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Discussion: supervisory requirements for lab courses

The SMUFU collective agreement states, all instructor's must be physically available the lab, interpreted as meaning that the instructor must be present. S. Veres suggested that it would be helpful if we had a framework to categorize what level of supervision is needed for labs. The committee discussed what the safety concerns would be if the instructor was not in the lab. Consensus opinion was that the instructor should be present during laboratories.

OTHER BUSINESS

Any other business

Greg Christian has replaced Adam Sarty as the radiation officer.

L. Lucas said that custodial only needs to wear lab coats in the lab when a sign states so or there is a lab hazard sign.

L. Lucas received a detailed email on how fume hoods operate, and she will send that out to the committee members.

L. Lucas will investigate adding more waste pickup dates, preferably every 3 months, so there is less of a backup.

L. Lucas will circulate the new WHMIS regulations from the province. Students can now self-enroll into the WHMIS training on Brightspace. She will send out the link to all faculty and staff for the training as well. There may be more in depth WHMIS training available and she will look into that option.

Meeting adjourned at 3:16pm.

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