

## Lab Safety Advisory Committee (LSAC) May Agenda

Meeting Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Location: LISB 217

Members Present: Pluth, Gillis, Hendrickson, Harms, Mason, Jasti, Rempel

Members Absent: Langworthy,

Non-Voting Attendees: Hoskins, Haley

Brought to Order: 1:02 PM

### Old Business:

- A) Minutes adoption: unanimous approval; Mason, Rempel, & Hoskins abstained
- B) Programmatic implementation:
  - 1) Lab coat program is with Space Allocation and funding groups. Renovations in Klamath are causing hurdles in identifying collection locations. Rag program will also be handled through the vendor that is chosen. It may be 2-3 months until the program can be implemented; we will try to have it in place by the beginning of the 2019 academic year. A published procedure for program operation should be created in time for the program to launch.
  - 2) Lone worker program edited and active – has been distributed to lab managers for customizing as needed and posting in their areas.
  - 3) Remote worker policy being reconciled with new travel policy and risk. Has been significantly delayed due to implementation of Concur system. Remote worker policy will likely be shortened to remove \_\_\_\_ .
  - 4) Great response on lab safety contact efforts and surveys: 95% of respondents submitted information.
  - 5) Lab Safety Manual nearly complete and in final edits as to formatting. Will be published to EHS website shortly; a link will be provided with minutes for this meeting.
- C) Professor Mike Harms appointed to replace Alice Barkan on the committee.  
Professor Mike Pluth appointed as committee chair.

### New Business:

- A) ASHRAE 110 Fume hood testing Results and Discussion – Matt Hendrickson described the ASHRAE testing failures for hoods that had been modified by the users. A potential repair has been prototyped, which creates an airfoil to redirect airflow. Neudorffer should be on site the third week of June to retest our prototyped repair setup in the Johnson lab. If the hood passes testing, this modification will be implemented on all failed hoods.

The new hoods in Pacific have also failed ASHRAE 110 testing due to undersized air valves. Air valves are scheduled to be replaced; Neudorffer will be resting the hoods afterwards.

The committee was concerned about the funding source for retesting and cost to modify systems in order to pass required testing.

**Action item:** Matt, check with Jen Miley to make sure a line item is included in renovations and construction projects to address required equipment testing.

- B) Brian Gillis expressed concerns about the lack of attention to deficient ventilation, lead concerns, and other safety features in the art studios. He would like a protocol for how information is disseminated to these areas that is equivalent to the Lab Safety Manual, which would include responsibilities for contractors, maintenance requirements, communication, and more efficiently addressing concerns. This would need to be established in a way that will supersede employee turnover to ensure continued forward progress. We need to redefine campus culture to consider art studios at the same priority as research laboratories. The committee hypothesized that research labs receive priority due to grant requirements and regulations such as the PHS Policy (animals) NIH Guidelines (rsNA), etc, which don't exist for art labs. Maybe a policy is needed? Confirm this is within the purview of this committee?

**Action item:** Matt, Jeremy, and Brian should meet and discuss a path forward, including lab contacts, involving facility managers, and establishing routine walk-throughs. This is a good project for the new LSO to undertake.

- C) Lab safety officer search committee – Luke Sitts has accepted a position with UOPD and will be leaving EHS effective June 1. A search committee is assembled and is accepting applications for the vacancy, Laboratory Safety Officer. The posting closes June 15. The committee would like the person who fills this position to be proactive and skilled at facilitating research while working toward solutions without being obstructionist. Skills in leading people to find solutions and promote change would also be valuable. Also, experience in higher education vs. industry, where they would be skilled at communicating with 18-25 year olds who are learning about risk and safety. Dr. Pluth would also like this person to be able to assist with online training tracking.
- D) Discussion of sulfuric acid injury: One of Dr. Haley's graduate students was cleaning out the fume hood, wearing proper PPE. For unknown reasons, he removed his labcoat but left on his gloves and safety glasses, then continued cleaning out bottles. One of these bottles was sulfuric acid. He poured it into a funnel into the waste jug, whereupon it reacted with the liquid in the waste jug. It sprayed all over him; he immediately responded to rinse it off in the sink. Other students in the vicinity immediately assisted in dousing him with sodium bicarbonate and locating a change of clothes. He then reported for medical evaluation and treatment. Fortunately he escaped this incident with only minor scarring on his arms where flesh was exposed directly to sulfuric acid. There is debate whether the bottle had been labeled at the time of the incident. An incident report has been drafted by Matt Hendrickson.

Dr. Haley encourages communicating the details of this incident throughout the UO research community in order to prevent a recurrence. The synthetic chemistry groups are apprised of the incident details and are regarding it as a wake-up call.

Contributing to the incident, this student was cleaning up the fume hood after a former, less organized, graduate student had left UO. Dr. Haley would like to see a method of clearance for departing students to complete before they leave, which would attest to having cleaned up their work stations and properly disposed of unwanted materials.

**Action item:** Matt will see if a clearance document such as this exists at peer institutions, which we can model from.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:18 PM