

Memo: November 16, 2010

To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council

From: Howard Apsan

Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Council Meeting Minutes  
Hunter College, November 11, 2010

### **Opening**

The Environmental Health and Safety Council meeting was held at Hunter College on November 11, 2010. The meeting was hosted by Ricardo Franco, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Hunter College. Rick Chandler, Assistant Vice President, welcomed the Environmental Health and Safety Council to Hunter College and thanked the EH&S Officers for their work throughout CUNY. Sheryce Woolery recorded the minutes and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

### **EHS Internal Audits**

Internal audits have been conducted at Kingsborough Community College (September 20 to 22); Queensborough Community College (October 3 to 5); and The City College of New York (November 8 to 12). An unscheduled audit is also planned for the fall semester. We are always looking for participants for audit teams, and EH&S officers are encouraged to volunteer by contacting Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, CUNY, Central Office, at [michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu).

Michael reported that the internal audits have disclosed challenges that continue from prior EPA audits. EH&S officers were asked to review their previous audits, evaluate progress and take corrective action, as appropriate. The corrective action, which may include working with professors and buildings and grounds personnel, should be implemented immediately and re-evaluated regularly.

### **Environmental Compliance and Lab Safety Subcommittees Report**

The Environmental Compliance subcommittee is working with the Lab Safety Committee on a number of issues including establishing lab audit protocols. In the essence of time, this reported was presented jointly.

As part of our compliance efforts, EH&S officers are encouraged to continue to be proactive regarding FDNY issues. Officers are encouraged to send certified letters to the FDNY Lab Unit when permit inspections and other regulatory matters are not forthcoming. Kurt Klein, Health and Safety Manager at EHSRM, is working with the FDNY to ensure that this matter is resolved in a timely manner.

The FDNY is in the process of reviewing the study material for The C-14 certification, it is anticipated that the new exam will be available in February. EH&S officers should note that the new rules reference the National Fire Protection Agency standards whereby educational labs will be restricted to two categories under the new rules as compared to the previous four.

In addition, fume hoods will require an annual face velocity certification. In cases where the fume hood is designed to operate at a face velocity below 80 FPM, an annual ASHRAE 110 test will be required. Also, there is a new permit required for all locations handling hazardous materials. In the Education and Health Care environment, the C-14 will be accepted as covering hazardous materials, in other environments the new permit (C-91) will be required.

The committee will be developing a series of protocols and Standard Operation Procedures for laboratories. The topics covered will include Safe use of Perchlorates, Perchloric acids and Ethidium Bromide. The committee asks that you assist by providing SOPs on these or any other topics that you may already be using on your campus.

### **Health and Safety Subcommittee Report**

The Subcommittee is reviewing an electrical safety arc flash training video and is developing a plan for implementation at every campus. Additionally, the subcommittee is developing a formal CUNY Lab Safety Policy.

### **CUNY EHS Newsletter and Website**

EH&S officers are encouraged to contribute articles, editorials, web links, and any other items of common professional interest to both the CUNY EHS Newsletter and the CUNY EHSRM website at <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. EH&S officers are also encouraged to visit the website periodically to review any regulatory updates or other information. As always, officers are also encouraged to visit SharePoint at <https://ehsrm.cuny.edu/default.aspx> for information on upcoming events, to access forms, and to contribute to and/or review discussions. If you are experiencing difficulty logging in or need a new password, please contact Brian Cabezas, [brian.cabezas@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:brian.cabezas@mail.cuny.edu).

### **Presentation**

**Matt Teeter, Environmental Compliance Advisor, Triumvirate Environmental**, provided an in-depth presentation on "**The FDNY's Lab Rule.**" Areas covered included: certificates of fitness; laboratory permits; and chemical storage. Matt informed the Council that laboratories and chemical storage facilities operated under the old code (prior to July 1, 2008) will have most of the new design criteria waived; all others will be required to comply fully with the new Code. We thank Matt for an interesting and informative presentation.

### **Updates in Brief**

As of December 1, 2010, Fire Safety Directors are required to take one continuing education course that addresses building operations, maintenance and recordkeeping to qualify to renew their certifications. For further information please visit the FDNY website at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/c\\_of\\_f/coff.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/c_of_f/coff.shtml)

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Public Health, in collaboration with Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, will be conducting the Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Course. The course satisfies the training requirements of CFC 49 Subpart H § 172.700 to 172.704 (DOT Hazardous Materials Training). The course will be held at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus on December 9, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For further information please contact Michael Ng at 718-488-1608 or [michael.ng@liu.edu](mailto:michael.ng@liu.edu).

The next NYCER meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2010, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, at Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, in Manhattan. **Sal Tranchina, Senior Director of Environmental Health and Safety**, The Mount Sinai Medical Center and **Rich Walka, Senior Vice President**, Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers, will be presenting on "**Surviving a Regulatory Agency Inspection.**" which is always a timely topic for EHS officers.

### **Upcoming Council Meeting**

The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2010, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at Baruch College, Vertical Campus, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, room 270, 55 Lexington Avenue, in Manhattan. **Jonathan Puleio, Director of Consulting, Humanscale**, will present on "**Designing Healthy Work Environments.**"

### **Adjournment**

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.