

Memo: March 25, 2008

To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council

From: Howard Apsan

Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Officers Meeting Minutes
Bronx Community College, March 13, 2008

Opening

The March meeting of the Environmental Health and Safety Officers was held at Bronx Community College on March 13, 2008. The meeting began with greetings from Andre Hurni, Director of Campus Planning, along with a brief welcome by Martin Pulver, EHSO at Bronx Community College. Later on, President Carolyn Williams took a few moments out of her schedule to congratulate the EHS Council and to thank us for our efforts. Sheryce Woolery of the CUNY Office of Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

College Updates

Abner Felix, EHSO at Hunter College facility, reported that an oil spill had occurred on the campus while oil was being pumped by a vendor.

Peter Jayasekara, EHSO at Laguardia Community College, informed the Council that several windows fell from one of the buildings. A truck that was parked below was damaged, but there were no reported injuries and the college is currently repairing approximately twenty five windows in that building.

Also, Bill Graffeo, EHSO at Queens College, reported that forty gallons of oil were spilled from an elevator hydraulic system. The spill was reported and the oil was cleaned by Triumvirate Environmental.

EHS Internal Audits

Internal audits have been completed at Queens College and Lehman College, and a third internal audit is planned for Brooklyn College on March 17, 2008. A surprise audit is also in the offering. As has been the practice, EH&S Officers from other campuses volunteered to serve on these internal audits. This practice provides added value to all involved. Anyone wishing to volunteer for an upcoming audit should contact Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, Central Office, at michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu

Environmental Compliance Subcommittee Report

Bill Graffeo, Director of Environmental Health and Safety at Queens College, emphasized that all audits will be conducted in a manner consistent with CUNY's EMS. Officers are therefore encouraged to visit the EHS website, to review the EMS and forward all questions to michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu.

The Environmental Compliance Subcommittee is currently developing a chemical inventory survey to help with the ongoing implementation of ChemTracker.

Health and Safety Subcommittee

The Health and Safety Subcommittee has initiated a violation database management system to track Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by regulatory enforcement authorities. The database is currently under construction in the Central Office and will soon be accessible to all campus EHS Officers.

Peter Jayasekara, chair of the subcommittee, indicated that the committee will be focusing its efforts on safety training. As a result, the committee is currently reviewing a training schedule template, which should be distributed at our meeting in May. The committee is also reviewing a software package called "Personal Protective Equipment," to see if it will provide added value.

CUNY EHS Website and Newsletter

EH&S Officers are continually encouraged to contribute articles, editorials, cartoons, web links, and any other items of common professional interest to both the CUNY EHS newsletter and the CUNY EHSRM website to environmental.health@mail.cuny.edu.

Training

The training portion of the March Council meeting consisted of a presentation by **Scott Metzger of Clean Harbors Environmental Services** on "Avian Influenza Update and Bio-Security Concerns." Scott shared with us the many business continuity concerns associated with Avian Flu, as well as various bio-security practices. We thank Scott for an informative and interesting presentation.

Updates in Brief

Environmental Health and Safety Officers are encourage to sign up for the CUNY A!ert, to receive text or voice notifications of campus emergencies or weather related closings. For more information, please visit www.cuny.edu/alert .

The next NYCER meeting will be held on May 27, 2008, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Columbia University, 2960 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

The SSHA Spring Conference is being organized by Stony Brook and will be held on April 10-11, 2008, in Port Jefferson, Long Island. For more information, please contact Kim Auletta at kim.auletta@stonybrook.edu .

Upcoming Council Meetings

The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2008, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at York College, 94-20 Guy R Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11451. The meeting will take place in the Faculty Dining Room 2D01 of the Academic Core Building. **Rob Neimeier, Managing Scientist, O'Brien & Gere**, will provide a presentation entitled “**Environmental Compliance – Planning, Implementing and Tracking.**”

Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.