

Memo: January 26, 2010  
To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council  
From: Howard Apsan  
Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Officers Meeting Minutes  
Brooklyn College, January 14, 2010

### **Opening**

The January meeting of the Environmental Health and Safety Council was held at Brooklyn College on January 14, 2010. Aldo Orlando, EHSO at Brooklyn College, hosted the meeting and welcomed everyone. Sheryce Woolery recorded the minutes and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

The Council welcomed Danford Scott and congratulated him on his appointment at The City College of New York. We look forward to benefitting from his fire-safety experience.

### **EHS Internal Audits**

Internal audits are scheduled for the spring semester at York College, The City College of New York and CUNY School of Law. An unscheduled audit is also planned for this spring. Anyone able to volunteer for an upcoming audit should contact Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, CUNY, Central Office, at [michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu)

The Council was reminded of CUNY's 2003 commitment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in regards to addressing violations and avoiding recurrence. EH&S Officers were asked to review old audits and to comply with the EMS.

### **Environmental Compliance Subcommittee Report**

Judi O'Toole, Chair of the Environmental Compliance Subcommittee, informed the Council that there was no January meeting of the subcommittee and that the Council will be updated on

pharmaceutical waste disposal regulations at the February meeting.

All Petroleum Bulk Storage regulatory information should be submitted to Michael Spath for a review of compliance with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Petroleum Bulk Storage regulations. The DEC maintains registrations of active and inactive bulk storage sites statewide. To utilize the Bulk Storage Program database, please visit the DEC website at [www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=4](http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/derexternal/index.cfm?pageid=4).

EH&S Officers were advised to review their regulatory compliance programs to see how we can improve our effort to educate faculty on regulatory compliance.

### **Health and Safety Subcommittee**

Mel Rodriguez, Chair of the Health and Safety Subcommittee, discussed the possibility of having Grainger provide additional training for EH&S Officers. These may include ARC flash training to comply with the new OSHA requirements; lock out, tag out refreshers; and confined space training. Mel also raised a concern to the Council regarding students wearing religious or ethnic attire that may interfere with the use or effectiveness of protective equipment in laboratories.

Kurt Klein, Health and Safety Manager, reported that he is working on a blood borne pathogen plan that will incorporate various elements of local, state and federal regulations. Kurt also addressed the need for all campuses to adhere to PESH standards. Finally, he raised several issues related to the gap in Hepatitis B vaccinations.

Richard Belgrave, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at City College, raised the question of foot washing in bathroom sinks for religious reasons and asked if other campuses are offering special accommodations for students.

The Department of Health (DOH) conducted a radiation safety audit at the College of Staten Island from January 7 to January 11. All EH&S Officers were advised to review their radiation safety compliance, including managing and documenting inventory, making sure that campus Radiation Safety Committees meet as required, and that all licenses are accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date.

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

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 [ehs@mail.cuny.edu](mailto:ehs@mail.cuny.edu). In addition, the [CUNY Risk Review](#), a newsletter focused on risk management issues throughout the CUNY system, is available on the EHSRM website. 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).

### **Training**

The training consisted of a presentation by **William Tramontano, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Brooklyn College**, on **A Provost's Perspective of Environmental Health and Safety on Campus: More Than Just Lab Safety.** Dr. Tramontano highlighted the need for faculty members to become more aware of environmental, health and safety requirements and noted the importance of fostering an ongoing relationship between the faculty and campus EH&S Officers. He mentioned the need for CUNY to develop a culture of undergraduate research and the need to instill a lab safety focus for all students. Dr. Tramontano also used the opportunity to thank the EH&S Officers for their contribution to the safety and overall productivity of CUNY. We thank Dr. Tramontano for an interesting and informative presentation.

### **Updates in Brief**

In an effort to encourage young people to get the H1N1 Vaccination during National Influenza Vaccination Week, the U.S Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius and Hunter College, will host a round table discussion on January 14, 2010.

The first Residence Hall Committee meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2009 at CUNY's 41<sup>st</sup> Street office. The meeting will include all college residence hall directors and several University officers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be hosting a webinar on February 10, 2009 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, focusing on the recently published Green House Gases Reporting Rule for Colleges and Universities. For more information please visit [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/training.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/training.html) .

The next NYCER meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2010, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, at 79<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024.

EH&S Officers are encouraged to visit the EH&S website periodically to review any regulatory updates or other information.

### **Upcoming Council Meeting**

The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2010, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at CUNY, 535 East Street, New York, NY 10075. The meeting will be held in the Kibbee Board Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. **Avrom Caplan, Associate University Dean for Research, Office of Academic Affairs**, will present on **"Safety and Security in the Laboratory from the Principal Investigator's Point of View."**

### **Adjournment**

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.