

Memo: June 10, 2011
To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council
From: Howard Apsan
Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Council Meeting Minutes
Medgar Evers College, May 12, 2011

Opening

The Environmental Health and Safety Council meeting was held at Medgar Evers College on May 12, 2011. The meeting was hosted by Mohamed Bangura, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Medgar Evers College. Lisa Edwards, Assistant Vice President for Facilities, welcomed the Council to the New School of Science, Health and Technology Building, which received a special citation in the 2011 Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) for Excellence in Planning. Sheryce Woolery recorded the minutes and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

Updates

Pursuant to recent citing of bed bugs on one of our campuses, the Council was informed of an article suggesting that bed bugs found in Vancouver were suspected of carrying Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). Council members were asked to continue to remain attentive of bed bug concerns on their campuses.

There was an occurrence of an unconfirmed case of bacterial meningitis on one of our campuses. The campus handled all reporting and notification procedures in accordance with CUNY Protocol on Infectious Disease Notification, <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ehsr/rmcouncil/InfectiousdiseasesProtocolFinal.pdf>.

Parmanand Panday, Safety Officer at Queens College, was acknowledged for his briefing on lessons learned from the EPA inspection at Queens College in February 2010. Sharing lessons learned helps to ensure that we all maintain compliance with city, state and federal regulations.

Environmental Compliance Update

The DER-25 / Petroleum Bulk Storage (PBS) Inspection Handbook has been posted on the EHSRM website, <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. Council members are expected to read the handbook and familiarize themselves with all applicable compliance requirements. Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, EHSRM, will provide a detailed presentation of the handbook at the July meeting.

Michael announced that CUNY is exploring other chemical inventory management systems in the event that the ChemTracker contract is not renewed. Michael invited Parmanand Panday and Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety Officer at Queensborough Community College, to join him in developing requested services from the potential system. The chosen internet-based system is expected to allow data to be easily migrated from ChemTracker and will be well-tested and user-friendly. Campuses should continue to enter data into ChemTracker.

Judi O'Toole, Chemical Hygiene Officer at LaGuardia Community College, was acknowledged for spearheading LaGuardia's successful Green Week. Judi volunteered to help other campuses establish Green Week programs and other green initiatives.

Submission of The Appendix G: Environmental Metrics Tracking Form is due on May 31, 2011. Colleges are also encouraged to submit a copy of Appendix C: Program Responsibility and Accountability Tracking Form to Michael. Please send all submissions and questions to michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu.

Health & Safety Subcommittee Report

Mel Rodriguez informed the Council that the NYC Fire Department has replaced the C-14 paper applications with an on-line process. The Fire Department will conduct a training session on the on-line application process at MetroTech on Friday, May 13, 2011 starting at 9:00 a.m. Mel will attend and provide an update at the next EHS Council meeting.

Kurt Klein, CUNY's Health and Safety Manager, is working with Sandy Camacho to ensure regulatory guidelines regarding ductless fume hoods. Kurt also indicated that FDNY recently adopted a new NFPA code and will provide more information at an upcoming meeting.

Presentation

Jerry Gordon, Research Safety Programs Manager at Cornell University, presented on **"The Finer Points of a Laboratory Inspection Program."** Jerry encouraged the Council to view lab inspections as training opportunities. He emphasize that when there is a finding, the inspector should explain what the problem is and how to correct. In addition, it is important to commend good practices and reinforce good behavior. Jerry also suggested that inspection checklists and labels should be made available to the lab community to clarify the compliance process. Jerry also develops metrics based on the inspections to help guide his compliance program and report to senior administration. He encourages self-inspections and finds value in both announced and unannounced inspections. For more information, please visit <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/>.

Following the EHS Council meeting, Jerry gave a brief demonstration of Cornell's on-line lab inspection program, which is being produced commercially and is expected to be available for purchase in July. For more information on the system, contact Jerry at jpg29@cornell.edu.

EHS 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 <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. EH&S officers are also encouraged to visit the website periodically to review any regulatory updates or other information.

Upcoming Council Meeting

The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2011, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11235. The meeting will take place in the Marine and Academic Center (MAC), room M-239. **Chaitanya Bijoor, P.E., DEE, Senior Vice President, Warren & Panzer, will present on “Overview of Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Regulation” and Robert Treglio, P.G., Senior Project Manager, Warren & Panzer Engineers, will present on “Impacts to CUNY on Sustainability, Energy and Carbon Footprint Initiatives.”** Our annual summer barbecue will follow the meeting.

Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.