

Memo: April 21, 2011
To: CUNY Environmental, Health and Safety Council
From: Howard Apsan
Re: Environmental, Health and Safety Council Meeting Minutes
The Graduate School of Journalism, April 14, 2011

Opening

The Environmental Health and Safety Council meeting was held at The Graduate School of Journalism on April 14, 2011. The meeting was hosted by Pamela Drayton, Assistant Director of Public Safety at The Graduate School of Journalism. Sheryce Woolery recorded the minutes and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

Updates

The Council was apprised of the recent death of Michele Dufault, a Yale University student, in a campus chemistry lab machine shop accident. The Council was encouraged to use this tragedy as a stimulus to re-dedicate its efforts to promote safety in CUNY laboratories.

Kurt Klein, Health and Safety Manager, EHSRM, Central Office, used the opportunity to emphasize that it is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that risks are being reduced on CUNY campuses and that as leaders we all contribute to safety by setting the highest standards and making sure that they are met.

Environmental Compliance Update

Internal audits for the spring semester have been completed at Medgar Evers College, Hunter College and Hostos Community College. An unscheduled audit is also planned for this spring. Michael thanked those from other campuses who assisted in the audits. EHSOs interested in volunteering to serve as part of an audit team may contact Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, EHSRM, Central Office, at michael.spath@mail.cuny.edu.

Michael, reminded the EHSOs to submit their annual NOx and CFC records to comply with the Clean Air Act requirements. Additionally, EHSOs were reminded to perform waste determinations on their silver recovery unit outflows before discharging them into drains.

Michael suggested that campuses conduct TCLP tests four times to verify that the silver in the effluent is less than 5 ppm. After the fourth test, campuses can perform copper tests to satisfy the waste determination requirement.

Finally, Appendix C of the Environmental Management System must be submitted by December 31, 2011. EHSOs can contact Michael with any questions or concerns about filling out the Appendix C form.

Health & Safety Subcommittee Report

Kurt Klein reminded campuses to perform regular inspections of fire extinguishers. All fire extinguishers should be checked monthly and serviced yearly. Additionally, regulations stipulate that the path of egress in labs be a minimum of 36 inches wide and the path be clear of obstruction. Furthermore, if filtering face pieces, including dust masks, are given to employees on campus, those employees must sign the OSHA 1910.134 Appendix D form indicating that the user is wearing the respirator voluntarily.

Kurt also discussed ductless fume hoods and distributed a review conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Kurt is working with the FDNY to determine under what circumstances their use at CUNY may be permissible.

Finally, the Committee is gathering information to develop a set of tool kits for lab safety. EHSOs should send any information they have on this subject to Kurt Klein, kurt.klein@mail.cuny.edu.

Lab Safety Subcommittee Report

The Committee announced that the upcoming Radiation Safety Seminar has been re-scheduled for April 21, 2011, at The City College of New York. Andrew Karam, Ph.D, CHP, Director of Radiological Operations at New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Peter Capetelli, Radiation Safety Officer and Director of the Office of Health Physics at Weill Cornell Medical College are scheduled to lead the training.

Additionally, the Council was advised that Principal Investigators and researchers that work with radiation must have annual refresher training. If they cannot attend the Seminar, they are required to obtain training elsewhere or risk having their work being interrupted until they receive the proper training.

Presentation

Parmanand Panday, Safety Officer at Queens College, updated the Council on **Queens College's EPA Inspection: Outcome, Lessons Learned, and Action Taken**. Parmanand described the February 2010 visit by the EPA. He also recounted the findings, which occurred mainly in the chemical storage areas, laboratories and universal waste storage locations. We thank Parmanand and the team at Queens College for this important and informative presentation.

EHS Newsletter

The winter 2010 edition of the EHS newsletter has been published and posted on <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. Please continue to submit articles for upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Upcoming Council Meeting

The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Medgar Evers College, 1638 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. The meeting will be held in the AB-1 School of Science, Health and Technology Building, third floor, VIP Dining Room. Jerry Gordon, Research Safety Programs Manager, Cornell University, will present on “**The Finer Points of a Laboratory Inspection Program.**”

Adjournment

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