

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WOOSTER CAMPUS SAFETY COMMITTEE
OARDC, ATI, and Research Stations
Minutes of July 20th, 2016 Meeting**

PRESENT: Tami Brown, Jim Hacker, David Drake, Roger Hamilton, Deana Hudgins, Mike Kauffman, Janet McCormick, Jenny Moyseenko, Chip Styer, Mark Schleppe, Lee Wilson.

The meeting was called to order by Roger Hamilton, Chair.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

1. Discussion of the minutes from May 17, 2016. Mark moved to approve the minutes. Chip seconded. Roger will send a pdf of minutes to Dave to upload to the website.
2. Old Business
 - a. Occupational Medicine updates: Members present were asked about any recent issues involving staff or student interaction with OccMed. in Columbus. No serious issues were noted, but Roger mentioned that the new system of notification by OccMed using “secure” email messaging to send clearances wasn’t perfect. These emails remain accessible to staff/supervisors for only a few days, and with the possibility of these individuals not checking email or being out of the office during this time, clearances are still not being received in a timely fashion. Roger will check with Linda at OccMed. to see if: 1) the time frame can be lengthened to view these emails, and 2) if department HR associates or secretaries can be copied on these emails to help ensure that clearances are received and filed properly within staff safety records.
 - b. Faculty representative alternate for WCSC: It was noted by Seth at the May meeting that while discussions have taken place between he and Administration, that once again no decision has been made concerning the naming of an alternate faculty rep. for the committee. Because many of the safety items brought to the attention of the committee concern academic departments, it has been noted many times of the importance of having a faculty representative at every meeting. A suggestion was also made of the viability of asking Rhonda Billman to attend our meetings to enhance communication between the committee and administration. Chip pointed out that he is technically the representative for administration and that Dr. Benfield and Rhonda both do read the minutes of every meeting.
 - c. Other old business from committee members: None was noted at this time.
3. New Business
 - a. Updates: Safety, Police and Fire: Dave reported there is an issue with wooden pallets accumulating at the east dump. After consulting with Mike Sword, they ask that if you have pallets that are in solid, usable condition to leave them between the metal scrap area and the dumpster and they will be traded in to Tyler’s for credit. Any broken or unusable pallets should just be thrown in the dumpster at the time of drop off.

Regarding campus pesticide storage areas, try not to leave trash or used material such as vermiculite lying around that might be confused with attempts at a spill cleanup. Contact EHS if you have had any type of spill or if you are going to be temporarily storing non-hazardous material that is slated for the trash but hasn't been removed yet.

Campus police would like to remind everyone to watch their speed around campus, especially within the arboretum and campus entry/exit drives. Any farm crews who transport staff on campus roadways in the back of pick-up trucks or gators must ensure everyone sits on the bed floor and not up on the rails, wheel wells or tool box.

Fire Alarm testing has been completed with the exception of Williams Hall which has a mechanical issue that will be fixed soon. Fire drills were included with these tests at some locations and Dave reports that these drills all went well.

The new preferred vendor for fire extinguishers has completed their rounds of campus. Anyone noting an extinguisher with an out of date tag should contact Dave

Everyone was encouraged to exercise caution when walking around the campus as there are now numerous storm sewer collection points where the ground surrounding the grates have collapsed causing hazards. Facilities is aware of the issue.

Tami reported that everyone on campus has now completed university mandated HazComm training. A class was also taught on pesticide safety to a group of Hort. Crop staff.

Also reported that fume hood testing has been completed and unannounced lab inspections have begun and are going relatively well with a just a few minor issues being found.

An inquiry was made by Katrina Cornish to EHS as to whether respirator use and subsequent training was required by her staff using the chemical colchicine in a new process. Tami, Dave, and Dorian Richards went to her lab and observed the staff performing the entire process start to finish and determined that respirator protection was not required. Anyone who has any question as to whether they or any of their staff need respirators for work they are performing, please contact EHS and they can evaluate and determine any need or requirement.

- b. New business from committee members: Roger posed the question to Mark S. about a possible replacement on the committee for Amy Ryan, who was Greenhouse Coordinator at ATI. With Jeff Strouse now in OARDC Facilities and acting as Roger's alternate, ATI is under represented, especially in the Hort/Academic divisions. Mark stated that he was to have a meeting that afternoon with Rhonda and would bring up this subject to her.

Lee brought an update from the University Lab Safety Committee of which he is a member representing FAES. There were two reported possible "runaway reactions" in labs both located on main campus. One instance turned out to be a malfunctioning hot-plate used to heat the chemical and the other involved improper labelling of chemical containers. No one was hurt in either instance and proper procedures appeared to have been followed during the emergencies themselves. However, both serve as reminders to the need for proper protocol and following correct safety procedures.

The ULSC also discussed the merits of the publication entitled “*A guide to Implementing Safety Culture in Our Universities*”, which is published by the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities Council on Research Task Force on Lab Safety. Both this publication and another journal article they reviewed showed how academia lags behind both government and industry labs in cultivating a safety mindset. It was also reported that when upper level administrators take a public stance on promoting safety, that the overall culture of safety within a university increases. The ULSC intends to pursue this avenue in future meetings.

Tami expressed concern that expectant mothers who are working in labs are not receiving any additional safety training regarding special protocols or PPE that may need to be followed given their special situations. It was pointed out that ultimately it is the PI in charge of the lab or research project who is responsible for learning of and implementing these changes to protocol, and following up with staff to ensure they are being followed. She also expressed concern over the culture in place where many PI's either retire or leave university employment without doing anything to secure disposal or transfer of lab chemicals or materials. Instead leaving it in place for the next person to deal with. This led to much discussion and examples across the committee of past instances. This places a strain on remaining staff, future PI's and staff, and EHS. A protocol should be in place where as part of the exit process, a researcher must account for a complete inventory of any chemical or hazardous material under his or her responsibility, and any specialized protocol for disposal of any experimental products.

Mike K. discussed the recurring issue with extreme heat in some of the labs in FAHRP during this hot summer. Lab temps have reached 100+ degrees at times and with PPE requirements it is creating unworkable situations. He asked if there is a process where people can be sent home if the conditions reach unsafe levels. Tami stated that there is a monitoring process that can be used with corresponding data charts to determine what those safe levels are. Other buildings are experiencing some similar conditions all relating to inadequacy of our chiller system.

Deanna reported that during a repair to the wall mounted a/c unit in her office, she observed that the insulation inside the unit cover was full of a type of black mold and that the person working on the unit was going to replace the cover “as it was” before she stopped him and asked that the mold be removed. As there are many units like this around campus it was asked whether there is any type of spot inspection program in place to determine any mold issues in working spaces. Tami stated that air quality tests can be performed by the university but these won't determine the type of mold present which is needed to determine unsafe conditions.

- c. Live 'n Learn: Jenny reported a recent issue in Williams Hall that involved a pungent odor permeating the ground floor. Much talk ensued among the staff all morning as to a possible chemical spill and the compound involved. Finally around noon the custodian contacted Dave and he came prepared for a spill response. The “chemical reaction” turned out to be a skunk that had gotten into a seldom used holding tank through an uncovered exterior outlet. Always prepared Dave quickly turned from safety officer to animal control and handled the situation. Live and Learn was to not spend so much time wondering what a problem may be but to call EHS and let them determine any response needed. (Deanna pointed out that staff on the SENR side of the building knew what the “spill” was all along...)

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 21st, 2016 at 8:30 am in the Fisher Conference Room.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chip Styer, and Mark Schleppe seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Hamilton, Chair