

UNBC LAB SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: February 26, 2024

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm Meeting hosted via MS Teams

Attendees:

Maik Gehloff – Committee Chair, WIDC Lab (FOSE)

Alina Constantin – Co-Chair, Sr. Lab Inst (FOHHS)

Saphida Migabo – ESM (FOE)

Oliver Iorhemen – Asst Prof EENG (FOSE)

Kaila Fadock – Sr Lab Instructor (FOSE)

Hossein Kazemian – Sr Lab Instructor (NALS)

Angus Modum – Grad Rep

Scott McMillan – Manager of OH&S

Jordan Wilbey – Chemical Safety Officer / RSO

Harpreet Johnson – Recording Secretary

Absent:

Mike Bell – Lab Operations & Infrastructure

Lukas Dauksas – NUGSS Rep

Sydney Cruch – NHSRF Coordinator

1. Meeting Called to order – 1:05pm

2. Territory Acknowledgement – Maik

3. AGENDA

- Saphida: Update contact info for labs
- Kaila: April/May meeting schedule
- Scott: New safety newsletter - Thya
- Approved by Kaila and Oliver. All in favour.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2024

- Approved by Alina and 2nd by Scott. All in favour.

5. SAFETY OFFICER REPORTS

a) Chemical Safety Report – Jordan

Mercury thermometer breakage for Environmental.

It is a Mercury apparatus that you must swing around that measure's temperature and humidity. The bulb broke off outside and could not find it. Jordan and Scott also went outside to look for it but couldn't locate it. Chris Jackson also looked for it but was unsuccessful.

Scott: Could we go without Mercury? Is there a different technology that we could use for this purpose? A little concerned about this one, if the mercury bulb is laying in the grass and gets broken with the lawn mower, the mercury could shatter across the grass and then the grass could be contaminated.

Kaila: This has happened in the past in January 2022, similar event, and it was determined that this is the only time that they require mercury thermometers, and it cannot be swapped for an alcohol thermometer. With the colder temperatures in Prince George, mercury thermometers are the only ones that will go down to the temperature that they need it when they are doing this analysis. The recommendation from the last incident was for them to do it on pavement so it is easier to clean in the event there is a spill and to bring a mercury spill kit with them.

Question: What about digital?

Comment: It is the act of the swinging that measures the accurate temperature.

Comment: The experiment would possibly be done later in the spring, and we could use an alcohol thermometer. We could arrange for it to be done on a warmer day. If we do stick with mercury for this experiment, could there be a material or net that could be put on that contraption that could go on top of the bulb?

Comment: It could interfere with their research.

b) Biosafety Officer – Mike

-Mike was absent. Follow up with Mike next meeting.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

- a) Welcoming and introducing Thya to the team.
Kaila: When would we come to Thya compared to going to Jordan or Scott.
Scott: Still in the works, but she will be doing the incident management, fire drills, newsletters, somethings will be done together. You can contact any of us or email the Safety inbox.
Saphida: With the newsletter coming out, has the safety team been introduced?
Scott: That's a good idea, it will be added to an upcoming newsletter.
- b) Update information on lab areas.
Saphida: the contact information on the labs is outdated.
Maik: Are these updated for who is occupying the room or who is going to be responsible for the lab.
Saphida: these are for the teaching labs
Kaila: When the lab inspections are done, that can be added on at the same time.
- c) April/May meeting schedules
Kaila: Kaila is to take over Chair from Maik in April, but in Kaila will be out of the country in May. We can talk in April to see if we need to have summer meetings.
Maik: Maik will resign as Chair when Kaila takes over but extending it by a month, shouldn't be an issue. Will discuss in April.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Safety Newsletter – Scott
Scott shared his screen and reviewed the Newsletter. It will be a monthly newsletter going out on the 1st of each month. Every month, new pictures will be added to the newsletter of positive observations from around campus.
Kaila: Will Scott have help managing the Safe app now? There was an incident recently where there was a fire alarm going off near the library and there wasn't anything posted onto the safe app, so instructors weren't sure if classes were still on or not. Some classes were cancelled, and others didn't because they didn't have any information on it. This is where the Safe App would be used to notify students/faculty.
Scott: Looking into getting radios because it's hard to know what is always going on around campus.
Comment: Is this something like this that should be coordinated with security? Shouldn't security be contacting safety to provide information as well?
Scott: Radio's will come be helpful with this as sometimes it does get overlooked.
Jordan: Whenever a fire alarm goes off, notifications are being sent to his phone. The last time it was 2:00am. Jordan to send information to Scott.

8. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Going back to meetings every 3rd Monday of the month. Next meeting will be March 18, 2024
1:00pm-2:00pm

9. MEETING AJOURNED AT: 1:38pm

ACTION ITEMS

Item #	Description	Who	Action
1	Review of the Visitors to Labs policy –currently in draft	Safety Office	Tabled for response from Safety
2.	Service dogs in lab space policy	Safety Office	Tabled for response from Safety to align with the UNBC animals on campus policy.
3.	Classification of Lab Space	Safety Office	Tabled for input from Safety.
4.	Procedure for UNBC Labs under Evacuation	Safety Office - Emergency Ops	Under development as part of the emergency operations.

NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 18, 2024

TIME: 1:00PM – 2:00PM – MS TEAMS - UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

UPCOMING MEETING DATES: TBA