

San Jose State University
College of Science Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 13, 2023 at 1:30 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

Membership: Christopher Smallwood, Philip Dirlam, Craig Clements, Fabio Di Troia, Yan Zhang, Jennifer Johnston, Nate Bogie, Randy Kirchner, Victor Maraschin, Jocelyn Douglas, Skye Kelty, Miri VanHoven, Michael Kaufman (CLS, PD, CC, FDT, YZ, JJ, NB, RK, VM, JD, SK, MVH, MK)

Call to Order: 1:36pm

- Members present: CS, PD, SK, RK, JD, JJ, FDT, VM
- Members absent: , CC, YZ, NB, MVH, MK

Minutes:

- Minutes for 2/09/2023 need to be approved.
 - Move to approve: Phil
 - Yes: Fabio
 - Unanimously approved.

Announcements:

- Field Safety (Skye): The first NSF proposals have been submitted under the new rule. Campus has created an inter-department regulatory committee to work on items like this. The field safety program is not expected to make it through that committee until next academic year. In the meantime, folks are welcome to set up consultations with EHS to discuss field safety.

Old Business:

- Compressed Gas SOPs. Updates?
 - Deadline remains 5/31/2023 (set by Skye & EHS). There is some possibility that Skye might be willing to extend this for those facing logistical issues related to ISB move.
 - Gas cylinder inventory is in RSS Chemical app, so that's good.

New Business:

- How is everyone doing in terms of managing the after-effects of winter flooding?
 - There was a lot of new flooding in Duncan over the last week or two, although nothing much in Science.
 - RK: There are cracks in the slab that needs to be fixed in order to be a real long-term solution. Right now, they are trying to get an engineer out to come and take a look. Money would likely come from the Chancellor's Office. It definitely won't be this fiscal year. Flooding is primarily happening in the hallways. Leaks into labs and offices through the doorways. On the Chemistry

side of the building it is mostly coming up from the floor. On the Biology side, it seems to be coming from above. They did install a sump pump in an effort to try to lower the water table.

- ISB / Duncan Hall move. College-wide issues that we need to discuss?
 - JJ: With the move, a lot of Biological Use Authorizations (BUAs) will have to be updated with room numbers. IBC who approves doesn't work over the summer. Which would shut down labs. Is there some kind of work-around?
 - SK: As IBC chair, we'll chat about this at the next IBC meeting. The Committee at this point has only two professors, both are willing to join and do a vote outside of their duty-days. I'll have an update next week after our meeting.
 - SK: A little of the strategy that will be happening on the safety side. Phase 1 labs (populating ISB) will be divided based on BSL2 vs BSL1 as well as complex vs simple chemical inventories. CoS Safety team OR Skye (EHS) will be working with individual labs to complete chemical inventories and develop action plans to prepare for the move. If you haven't heard yet from us, it's probably because the lab is more simple with less hazardous materials moving. Town halls will happen once FDO settles the moving contract.
- Biosafety Concerns in general.
 - JJ: Recently there was a biosafety violation in biology, and it led to some conversation in the department that there may not have been a lot of support in writing BUAs. Several people went to Office of Research to request for some additional training that could be offered in order to avoid this kind of thing happening in the future.
 - SK: No spills, no injuries. Upwards of maybe 12 different PIs using the same space for research/teaching with biohazards. Some shared space issues related to biohazard communication.
 - CLS: Ways to get ahead of this in the future?
 - Simpler BUAs?
 - Support could be better assisting people how to write these?
 - Improved communication?
 - SK: Maybe one thing that could be helpful is to standardize the language a little bit more. BUAs could be shared (by PIs) between departments, although not directly from Skye (IBC). Consistent language and approach would be excellent.
 - SK: We're trying to put the word out, the committee is down to only 5 people; if anyone knows of faculty on campus, and/or external people. Need new members. (unpaid) volunteer committee: Institutional Biosafety Committee.
- SOPs:
 - SK: At this point, EHS is not expecting any new mandatory SOPs in the next year. Current focus is more on heavy equipment (more for engineering/art than CoS, probably, but maybe autoclaves?).

Adjournment: 2:28 pm