

**Texas Tech University Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry**  
**Safety Committee Meeting**  
3 February 2012

Members Attending:

Justo Adame, David Birney, Rachel Behrens, Amanda Boston, Dominick Casadonte, Cliff Harris (EH&S), Eileen Judkins, Garrett Mohr, Brandon Mount (EH&S), Sunil Paladugu, Paul Paré, Cole Siefert, Bruce Whittlesey

Absent: Yunli Hu, Jared Martin, Geneva Peterson, Jon Thompson, Lian-Jie Xue

The meeting was begun at 13:02.

Agenda Item 1: Announcements

Cliff Harris was introduced as the acting head of the Texas Tech University Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S). Randy Nix retired in December 2011.

Peer Safety Evaluations:

Dom Casadonte reminded everyone to continue peer laboratory safety inspections.

Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee Report:

Dom Casadonte reported that the Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee has met and has addressed the issue of laboratory hazards. At this point they have a working definition of a hazard as any chemical that ranks a value of 3 or higher on the Baker scale. Another point of discussion was when to flag the chemical in the process from placing the order to its arrival at its final destination. The two options appear to be to flag it in the purchasing process or to have researchers fill out specific forms for hazardous substances. Researchers who routinely order a particular chemical on a recurring basis and have certified safety procedures and policies in place might be able to apply once for clearance to order the substance on a regular basis rather than for each order. Cliff Harris (EH&S) said that the current procedure seems to be working, where EH&S reviews all purchase orders for chemicals and assesses the hazard based upon the university chemical hygiene plan and the CFAT (Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards) list. Purchasing also checks orders against the CFAT list. The procedures followed by the Radiation and Laser Safety Committee were suggested as possible models for chemicals as well, in that researchers might be certified to order certain classes of compounds (eg. explosives, or cytotoxic materials, etc.)

Members of the Department of Theatre and Dance will assist the department in training teaching assistants in accident response (acting out realistic scenarios). Dom Casadonte has met with Linda Donahue in the Department of Theatre and Dance, who will work on putting together a program.

EAC's and BEM will meet next Friday at 1:00 for preliminary evacuation drill for the Chemistry building.

Agenda Item 2: Undergraduate Members of the Committee

Undergraduate committee members Eileen Judkins and Cole Siefert were introduced.

Agenda Item 3: Chair Evaluation

Three chair samples were evaluated for potential use as replacements for any fabric-covered chairs that may still be in the laboratories. Model # 7000 won unanimous approval.

Agenda Item 4:

Comments and Suggestions that have come up with regard to Peer Safety Surveys:

We need to replace fabric-covered chairs.

Syringe needles cannot be stored in the drying oven. David Birney, Cole Siefert, and Bruce Whittlesey will meet as a subcommittee to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure for syringe needles and cannulas.

Concern was expressed about outside waste contractor personnel going into the break room with gloves and lab coats on during their recent visit in January.

There have been requests for clarity as to what is needed when writing chemical names on secondary waste containers (are formulas, abbreviations allowed? What if the full name won't fit on the label?) Rachel Behrens suggested that reference numbers could be used on the labels if some waste mixtures are generated repeatedly on a continuing basis, and descriptions of the contents that correspond to each reference number can be kept in the laboratory.

Agenda Item 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 17 February 2012 at 13:00 in Chemistry Room 305.  
The meeting was adjourned at 14:10.