



M E M O R A N D U M

Date: April 30, 2019
To: Chemical Hygiene Committee
From: J. Marvin Pratt, Director of Environmental Health and Safety
Subject: Chemical Hygiene Committee
Present: Dan Clark, Jonathan Day, Dan Everson, Randy Miller, Chuck Sellers,
Holly Swan, Betsey Tamietti, Kenny Wahl, Blain Wells

The Chemical Hygiene Committee meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. in Park II, Room 119.

Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2019

The minutes of February 6, 2019, were electronically approved as submitted.

Review of Accidents/Incidents

Mr. Pratt advised the Review of Accident/Incidents will be a regular agenda item for discussion.

Mr. Pratt reported an incident occurred on March 26, 2019, in Civil Engineering. A Professor received a laceration to the inside of his right wrist and hand while attempting to insert a glass pipette into a plastic pipettor during a lab class. After several attempts to insert the pipette into the pipettor, the pipette suddenly broke into several pieces. The pipette was clean and empty at the time of the incident. The Professor was transferred to UC Davis Medical Center for surgery.

Due to the incident being a serious injury requiring hospitalization, OSHA was on Campus too investigate the incident.

Discussion followed regarding the glass pipette could have been old, have been stressed or acquired micro fractures depending on how they are stored, the bulb should have been replaced with a softer seal, use automatic pipette, and glass pipettes have been the standard for a long time, plastic is more commonly used.

The general consensus was that in most cases, plastics are preferable and would be recommended by the Chemical Hygiene Committee unless glass was required for a special purpose such as chemical resistance.

Food and Drink in Labs

Mr. Pratt advised he received a request to use a lab for various group meetings and other non-laboratory related activities that include having food and drink. The chemicals and equipment would be removed, countertops cleaned and covered with tablecloth before use.

Mr. Pratt advised the request cannot be approved as food and drink are not allowed in lab areas, and are not allowed to be stored in lab areas, where hazardous chemicals are used and stored. If the area is no longer designated as a lab, significant, documented, and potentially verified decontamination procedures are required.

These requests may become more frequent as employees are looking for designated meeting space for group meetings that include food and drink.

RSS Implementation Timeline

Mr. Pratt reported on and distributed to the Committee members a report from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Laboratory Hazard Assessment Completion Report by College and Department showing the number of laboratories handling chemicals and/or biologicals; the assessment completed; the assessments not completed; and the completion rate.

Mr. Pratt also distributed to the Committee members a proposed implementation timeline for RSS for assessment, chemicals, and inspection.

Dr. Clark asked if the Art & Agriculture target dates could be moved forward to allow Chemistry's target date to be moved back based on the fact that the Physical Sciences departments are in the process of actively planning for the move into the new building in one year. Dr. Clark hoped this situation might be considered by the CSU auditor as well.

Discussion followed regarding assessment of research labs, inspection of space, classrooms, the Instrument Lab Assessment inventory is almost complete, cleaning out old inventory, have started assessment of chemicals not 100% implemented, inventory continues in stockroom, cleaning of old inventory for disposal, review of personal protective equipment, and would it be best to do an inspection of the new facility versus the old?

Individuals asking about RSS Implementation progress should be advised that faculty and staff are in the process of preparing to move from the old to the new Physical Sciences buildings.

Update on Chancellor's Office Audit

Mr. Pratt advised all 23 Campus' are currently being audited, and at the conclusion of the audit, the Campus' will receive a written report of their findings. Once the report has been received, the President will have a designated timeline to respond on the corrections made to the Chancellor/Board of Trustees.

The Auditors returned to Campus for a second week to meet with department Chairs. The meetings were to discuss lab/stockroom/foundry safety, student and employee training, hazardous materials and chemicals, inspections and inventories, laser use, and policies and procedures. The Auditor also met with Shipping and Receiving to discuss the process for receiving, storing, distributing hazardous materials and chemicals, including a physical walkthrough of their space.

Mr. Pratt advised that due to vacations and Commencement, the audit will be a 10-week process. During the third week, the Auditor may ask for Student Contracts, training, walk throughs, and review of mechanical rooms.

Mr. Pratt noted the Auditors report to the Board of Trustees, not to the Chancellor.

Other

Ms. Swan advised she is in the process of updating the Chemical Hygiene Plan. Once the Plan has been updated, she will forward a draft to the Committee members for their review and comments.