

Laboratory Safety Committee Meeting Minutes April 20, 2020, Zoom Meeting

Attendance according to sign-in:

Member	Department	Pres.	Abs.	Member	Department	Pres.	Abs.
Doug Aaron	MABE	\boxtimes		Mariano Labrador	BCMB	\boxtimes	
Michael Allen	TCE			Yingkui Li	Geography	\boxtimes	
Shawn Campagna	ORE	\boxtimes		Brian Long	Chemistry	\boxtimes	
James Cantu	EHS	\boxtimes		Bryan Lord	Facilities	\boxtimes	
Christine Cheney	Physics & Astronomy	\boxtimes		Larry McKay	Arts & Sciences	\boxtimes	
Lori Cole	IACUC/OLAC	\boxtimes		Ahmad Mitoubsi	EHS/Lab	\boxtimes	
Matthew Cooper	Psychology	\boxtimes		Sarah Mobley	CEE	\boxtimes	
Steve Crouch	UTIA Safety	\boxtimes		Scott Moser	EHS/Lab	\boxtimes	
Paul Dalhaimer	CBE	\boxtimes		Christine Parks		\boxtimes	
Elizabeth Derryberry	EEB	\boxtimes		Jacob Payne	UTIA Safety		\boxtimes
Bill Dunne	Vice Chair-Tickle COE	\boxtimes		Sandra Prior	EHS	\boxtimes	
Gerald Egeland	MSE	\boxtimes		Sarah Pruett	ORE	\boxtimes	
Scott Emert	Nuclear Eng.	\boxtimes		Brian Ranger	EHS/Lab	\boxtimes	
Chris Fedo	EPS	\boxtimes		Darcy Rathjen	JIAM	\boxtimes	
Jennifer Ferris	GSM	\boxtimes		Marsha Smith	EHS/Rad	\boxtimes	
Jason Fogarty	Theatre		\boxtimes	Cynthia Swift	CEB	\boxtimes	
Liz Fozo	Microbiology	\boxtimes		Erin Tucker	Art	\boxtimes	
Sharon Hale	CEE	\boxtimes		David White	UTIA	\boxtimes	
Linda Hamilton	EHS/Lab	\boxtimes		Andre Zeumault	EECS	\boxtimes	
Terry Hazen	Chair-CEE/EPS/Micro	\boxtimes		Ling Zhao	Nutrition	\boxtimes	
Randy Huelsman	Facilities	\boxtimes		Vacant	Grad Student Rep		\boxtimes
Lee Jantz	Anthropology	\boxtimes		Mike Donovan	By phone	\boxtimes	
John Kobza	ISE	\boxtimes		Kim Harmon	EHS/guest	\boxtimes	
Pam Koontz	EHS/Lab	\boxtimes			EHS/Guest		

Agenda:

- I. New DSO Introduction
- II. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting
- III. Laboratory Safety Services Updates
- IV. COVID-19 Response-Bridging & Sustaining Safety Culture
- V. Laboratory Hibernation Concerns-Procedural Reminders
- VI. Chemical Inventory Updates
- VII. DSO Program Development
- VIII. Vice-Chair Nominations/Vote
- IX. New Business
- X. Next Meeting

Attachments and References:

- Meeting Attendance Sheet
- Lab Hibernation Plan
- Essential Research Operations Plan
- Working Alone
- Conducting On-campus Laboratory-based Research Activities Off-campus
- Core Facility User Guidance
- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eCo X2ENGGHw5brxlh3Q2vsC1O8sAhAAg?usp= sharing

<u>Due to COVID-19 the university is decreasing the number of essential individuals on campus. This will continue until further notice. We will continue to have zoom meetings throughout the summer as our in-person meeting locations have canceled.</u>

Topic Summaries

- I. New DSO Introduction CEE Sarah Mobley
- **II.** Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes from the 3-23-2020 meeting were approved. Hazen –Eureka had their undergraduate presentations, and it went well. Congratulations and thanks to Matthew Cooper whose students won awards at the event.

- III. Laboratory Safety Services Updated (Ranger) (0:08:38 0:29:29)
 - a. Policy/Procedure Update FYI for committee LSS is working remotely, including reviewing and updating lab safety plans and procedures.
 - i. Maintenance of living documents
 - ii. Building congruency between existing plans/procedures and the new chemical hygiene plan. There are about 15 that will be impacted in some way.
 - b. BioRAFT Lab Shutdown Feature (Cantu)
 - i. Added a tab for emergency shutdown status so that the lab status can be quickly determined. The PI can change the lab activity status, and EHS can access and toggle the setting as well.
 - ii. BioRAFT also added a feature to allow for external links. We can add a link to information that is important and/or that users need to know immediately (e.g. latest CDC guidance, emergency notices, etc.). This feature is prominent upon login to ensure that users will see any important information or advisories.
 - 1. Bill Dunne question The EOC went through the exercise of collecting contingency plans for on campus labs. Has anyone paired what is in BioRAFT to what has been complied in the EOC? Including UTIA, there are almost 500 lab groups. Just curious if there has been a comparison.
 - 2. EHS We have not asked the faculty to complete this feature in BioRAFT yet. This is a new feature for the COVID-19 response. EHS can bulk edit if we had a list from the EOC. Fixed terms and not configurable at this time.
 - 3. Dunne Communication has been a struggle, but as labs report hibernation status to the EOC EHS should be able to update BioRAFT accordingly. We are currently operating at reduced research levels (but most operating labs have been deemed "essential"). As long as practice safe behaviors, researchers are allowed to be on campus.
 - 4. If you can practice social distancing and all the things that go along with this situation right now you can have more than 2. Example given from Bill was you need about 113 sq. ft. per person to stay at safe distancing while working in labs.

Encourage face masks, gloves if they are appropriate for the SOP, and frequent cleaning of surfaces.

5. Get full information on zoom recording.

IV. COVID-19 Response-Bridging & Sustaining Safety Culture − (Ranger) (29:45 − 58:20)

This was to bring messaging from the EOC to the lab safety committee with the hopes of leveraging the good work that has been going on during the COVID-19 into lab safety improvements.

- a. Top-down Messaging--Importance of DSOs and Departmental Leadership in Response (discussion)
 - i. Liz Fozo at the beginning of the response, general confusion about the status of laboratory research; i.e. shut down or continuing? When labs start to ramp back up, what is that going to look like and when is that going to happen? What is the university going to provide?
 - ii. Shawn Campagna at the departmental level, there has been no clear guidance on expectations or stringency of enforcement. Not much information from department leadership.
 - iii. Darcy Rathjen EOC set good tempo for them at JIAM.
 - iv. Communication was a main issue in the beginning.
 - v. Still unclear who will be providing or paying for proper PPE for people returning to work.
 - vi. Larry McKay UT will have to develop its own capabilities to do large numbers of testing because when students come back August, January or the following August there is going to be a demand for it. Providing on campus testing for research people over the summer would be a good way to test out what the procedures and abilities to do that are.
 - vii. Kobza department is unusual, they are not very lab oriented in terms of research they do. A lot of it is just graduate students with computers. Labs have essentially been unoccupied since March.
 - viii. Cooper divided between human researchers and animal researchers. As far as animal research and wet lab space, the contingency plans helped; however, still uncertainty about ramping back up? Human researchers are not a focus of the LSC, but they will do what IRB tells them to do whenever lifts human subjects research restrictions.
- b. BioRAFT: Update Chemical Inventories, CHP, SOPs
 - i. Having this information sustainably up to date is really valuable. Helps give better snapshot of what is in the labs.
 - ii. DSO carry message back to department to get lab profiles updated.
- c. Contingency Planning Documents
- d. Accolades and successes from the EOC
 - i. Linda enormous amount of work in a short amount of time. Thank you to everyone. A special thank you to Erin Tucker for all your help for everything. Thanks to Bill Dunne, Dave White, and Matthew Mench for their leadership. Ask for continued patience from everyone. If anyone left out thank you for all your hard work and support.
 - ii. Brian thanking Linda and Ahmad for all their help.
 - iii. Dunne recognition of Ahmad and all his hard work and to write and manage the data spreadsheets.

Summary: still some struggles with EOC and contingency planning, particularly with communication at the departmental level. Ongoing discussions for lab research some of which is still pretty active. Also some good efforts that has come out of these actions.

Campagna still has grad students coming in to the lab to do zoom teaching because they do not have internet at home. So when thinking about ramping up research, need to think about how that will intersect with student activities that require them to be on campus. In Chemistry, 40-50 students a day

that are coming to Buehler jut to stream their classes or do their teaching and very few have dedicated office space.

V. Laboratory Hibernation Concerns-Procedural Reminders (Ranger) (58:35 – 1:08:51)

- a. Ties back into some of the written procedures that have been pushed out to departments about lab hibernation. EHS has had the opportunity to walk through some laboratories in Dougherty, some of the labs were active but some were in hibernation mode. In one hibernating lab, it was noted that several items on the hibernation checklist had not been completed (e.g. unplugging hotplates and closing chemical fume hood sashes). As a reminder, following the hibernation checklist will make labs safer while dormant. Reiterate to DSOs and they can carry this forward to departments and remind folks to really adhere to the checklist for the lab hibernation plan.
- b. Sandra Prior EHS to resume lab inspections since we are one of the first groups to resume operations. We are also going to take this opportunity to ensure the labs are in a safe state when they do resume.
- c. Dunne The University cannot depend on EHS to maintain safety culture across all of the labs in real time. That is a totally unrealistic state of affairs for EHS and for the university and would show a tremendous hole in our safety culture mindset if we have to depend on just one entity on the campus.
- d. Prior one other thing to look at is clutter. It will be hard to sanitize and clean if there is a lot of clutter. Also look at to see if there have been alterations to your facilities structure or equipment. Also, chemical inventory and hazardous waste will be checked.
- e. Ranger EHS approach when scaling back up and walking through labs is not going to be like traditional audit procedure. Efforts will be largely walking through the labs looking at the physical condition of the labs, looking at safety parameters that could impact the safety state of the lab. The flavor of the lab inspections this year will be different.

VI. Chemical Inventory Updates (Ranger) (1:09:06 - 1:10:27)

- a. Make sure your chemical inventories stay up to date as possible.
- b. This is slightly different than the planned method of working with the PI's during their scheduled lab inspection to make sure the chemical inventories were updated (vs. doing the bulk collections during the month of March or April). High level reminders re: chemical inventory updates in BioRAFT should be issued to all departments.

VII. DSO Program Development (Ranger) (1:10:29 – 1:17:07)

- a. Scott has been doing a lot of benchmarking relative to DSO type programs that exist out there. We have had questions especially from the new DSO's about what's expected of me?
 - i. Like to take the DSO program and find a way to make it more standardized, a little more rigorous with more incentives to serve your department in that capacity. Would like to set up another subcommittee or task force to help Brian decide or help derive what a good departmental safety officer program would be.
- b. Dalhaimer Brian, Bill and he can talk about that tomorrow at the engineering meeting. Just start there and expand.

VIII. LSC subcommittees have been put on hold (Hazen)

i. Hazardous Chemical - McKay heads the committee - revisit to see if can get started again

- ii. Metrics Dunne ready to report out
- iii. Lab Coats Prior submitted to EOC for planning to see if they could do anything about it. Especially if they are supplying PPE.
- iv. Awards Hazen need to resurrect. Dunne suggestion (short term) if EHS is back around and looking at labs for the next few weeks or couple of months while we are ramping back up. If they see lab that are doing things really well, we need some example labs that are handling these times. It is not just lab safety it is also public health and if we see folks doing that right I think we ought to recognize them get that published in the campus communications document. Need examples of real people doing real things the right way to help the cause.

IX. Vice-Chair Nominations/VOTE (Hazen) (1:17:09 – 1:20:00)

a. Bill Dunne elected as Vice-chair of LSC again.

X. New Business (1:19:57)

- a. Darcy positive COVID-19 case at JIAM. Concerns are they are really getting no cleaning at all. She can see on camera when custodial staff are cleaning areas (or not). They were promised hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies. The garbage has not been picked up in 2 weeks and no horizontal surfaces are getting wiped at all. They just need help out at JIAM getting these things done.
- b. Brian Lord will get with Gordon Nelson to resolve the issue.
- c. Dunne also suggested that Dave White talk with Terry Ledford in the EOC so that he is aware of the legitimate concern from JIAM.
- d. Daugherty custodial issue 2 weeks and nothing has been in there.
- e. Randy Huelsman if anyone has any issues get on Archibus and the STAR team is still here and can assist.
- XI. **Next Meeting** June 15, 2020, 1:30-3:00 pm; Zoom Meeting