Laboratory Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2020, Zoom Meeting

Attendance according to sign-in:

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<th>Member</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<td>Doug Aaron</td>
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<td>Mariano Labrador</td>
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<td>Michael Allen</td>
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<td>Yingkui Li</td>
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<td>Shawn Campagna</td>
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<td>Brian Long</td>
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<td>James Cantu</td>
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<td>Bryan Lord</td>
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<td>Christine Cheney</td>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
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<td>Larry McKay</td>
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<td>Lori Cole</td>
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<td>Ahmad Mitoubi</td>
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<td>Bill Dunne</td>
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<td>Jennifer Ferris</td>
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<td>Erin Tucker</td>
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<td>Andre Zeumault</td>
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<td>Terry Hazen</td>
<td>Chair-CEE/EPS/Micro</td>
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<td>Ling Zhao</td>
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<td>Randy Huelsman</td>
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<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Grad Student Rep</td>
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<td>Lee Jantz</td>
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<td>Pam Koontz</td>
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Agenda:

I. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting
II. Laboratory Safety Services Updates
III. COVID-19 Response-updates
IV. COVID-19 projects-biosafety/IBC reminders
V. Equipment procured from foreign vendors & electrical safety concerns
VI. Chemical waste spill – Dougherty (preliminary details)
VII. Service appreciation & happy retirement to Pam Koontz
VIII. New Business
IX. 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/1yXdrPwaipamTgwBf5--1Nwp_MQNR6qTL?usp=sharing
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.

Topic Summaries

I. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

II. Laboratory Safety Services Updated (Ranger)
   a. Lab walkthroughs-progress, common findings & notable concerns
      i. Summarized that labs/support spaces in Mossman, SERF, Dougherty, and JIAM have been completed. Dabney-Buehler is in progress. Next buildings include Strong, Tickle, and Hesler.
      ii. Common findings have been related to chemical inventory management, door placard updates, and laboratory clutter (that may impede COVID-19 health safety plans and social distancing).
   b. Lab Safety listserv
      i. A Lab Safety listserv has been established and can be used by both EHS and the lab community to broadcast safety announcements, share best practices/lessons learned, etc. It can be accessed at labsafety@listserv.utk.edu.

III. COVID-19 Response-updates – (Dunne/Hamilton)
   a. Labs in hibernation-concerns and future guidance
      i. Hibernation is a voluntary and temporary closure of a lab by the lab manager.
      ii. Procedure: lab has no activity, lab has been cleaned, hazards are stored appropriately, and lab has been inspected by a safety officer and approved for hibernation.
   b. Research restart & ramping
      i. Restarting
         1. Essential (Phase 1)
         2. Reduced (Phase 2)
            a. Health Safety Plan in place.
            b. Training for COVID-19 safety measures on campus.
      ii. Ramping Up
         1. Recommendation of experts in UT/ORNL: UT should not set up a CLIA-certified lab itself to handle COVID-10 testing. Hire outside labs to conduct testing. One group in Nashville can handle 11,000 tests per day with results in 24 hours.
         2. Monitoring COVID-19
            a. Saliva Testing: lab 717 SERF
            b. Pool Testing: broad sampling, test individuals in a pool if you get a positive
            c. Waste-water testing: 30 buildings per week, lab in 432 SERF
            d. Contact Tracing: Dr. Gregg at the Student Health Center will train staff.
c. Health/safety plans-implementation & expectations
   i. EHS LSS is currently looking at the capacity of labs to follow new procedures (distancing, hand washing, clutter reduction, etc.), but implementation of health safety plans is not being formally evaluated.
   ii. A concern about masking was brought up. How do we police students not wearing masks?
       1. Deans, Department Heads, and Faculty (PI’s) will be responsible for distributing masks and giving students positive reinforcement to wear masks.
       2. EOC may approve alternatives on campus in certain situations. This would be on a case-by-case basis.
       3. Signs are posted about wearing masks in bathrooms, entrance areas, and elevators.

IV. COVID-19 projects-biosafety/IBC reminders (Ranger)
   a. UT campuses do not currently have the BSL-3 containment facilities necessary for work research with infectious SARS CoV-2. Therefore, researchers are not permitted to receive, propagate, or otherwise manipulate infectious virus cultures.
   b. Researchers may request use of genomic materials and/or diagnostic specimens for purposes of public health surveillance.
      i. Containment protocols must be approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).
      ii. All locations where samples will be manipulated or stored must be documented. Inventory documentation and management will also be important in the event that SARS CoV-2 becomes a federally-controlled select agent in the future.

V. Equipment procured from foreign vendors & electrical safety concerns (Ranger)
   a. Foreign manufactured equipment can pose safety hazards.
      i. Some may work on direct current instead of alternating current.
      ii. Safety labels, tags, or manuals may not be printed in English.
   b. Suggestion: only allow UL certified equipment or OSHA approved equipment in labs on campus.
      i. Problem: many PI’s order from Amazon or other internet sites with a procurement card.
      ii. Can also contact a service to come to UT and verify safety of a piece of equipment.
   c. Moving forward: the UL certified equipment suggestion will be sent to Sandra as an action item in Safety Committee meeting. After approved in the Safety Committee, the Lab Safety Committee can vote on and approve this requirement.

VI. Chemical waste spill – Dougherty (preliminary details; Ranger)
   a. A 6th-floor lab in Dougherty had a 1-2 liter chemical spill from a glass bottle that broke.
      i. Older chemicals in storage
      ii. Corrosives in mixture may have eroded glass over time
   b. EHS helped with the chemical clean-up.
   c. The PI is developing a SOP and chemical compatibility chart to improve the lab’s hazardous waste management.
VII. **Service appreciation & happy retirement to Pam Koontz**
   a. Several people wished Pam a happy retirement and expressed appreciation for all that she has done in promoting lab safety in her ~20-year service to EHS.

VIII. **New Business**
   a. No new business.

IX. **Next Meeting** – July 20, 2020, 1:30-3:00 pm; Zoom Meeting