



Laboratory Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2025
Student Union 362

Attendance (in person):

Member	Department	Pres.	Abs.	Member	Department	Pres.	Abs.
Doug Aaron	MAE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Savannah Jobkar	BESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Allen	TCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Kirkpatrick	Art (3D)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Barnhart	EHS (ENV)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mariano Labrador	BCMB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernard Asare Bediako	CRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grace Loy	IAMM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pamela Andrews	KRSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elysia Mann	Art (2D)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Blum	CAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Martin	EECS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jaime Call	EEPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristen Massey	ORIED	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Cantu	EHS (OHRM)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brandon Matheny	EEB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christine Cheney	Physics & Astronomy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Mobley	Chair: CEE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew Cothrine	MSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Katie Morgan	Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Crouch	UTIA Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Morris	VC: IAMM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Dalhaimer	CBE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Moser	EHS (Chem)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ampofo Darko	Chem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tern Nalaoh	Chemistry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brad Day	ORIED	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Payne	EHS (OSEF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emily Deem	EHS (RAS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacob Payne	UTIA Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Denavit	CEE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Ranger	EHS (Director)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shawn Drake	EHS (Rad)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Ratliff	NucEng.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Dunne	TCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Darcy Rathjen	ORIED	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Ferris/ Melissa Weaver	GSM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Rials	UTIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Fogarty	Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ricky Rutherford	EHS (IWS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adrian Gonzalez	CEE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anujit Sarkar	Nursing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linsey Graff	Provost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kalynn Schulz	Psychology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda Hamilton	EHS (PEACE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsha Smith	EHS (RAS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Hazen	CEE/EEPS/Micro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timothy Sparer	Microbio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Hicks	ISE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Taylor	Facilities Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sally Horn/ Luke Blentlinger	Geography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Thomas	EHS (BIO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Randy Huelsman	Facilities Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geoff Woolard	EHS (FLS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Hutchins	Facilities Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ling Zhao	Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anneke Janzen	Anthropology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Guests:	Department	Pres.	Abs.		
Carolina Carter	EHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Setzer	EHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zack Roach	EHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maria Visconti	CAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Agenda:

- I. Opening Welcome!
 - a. Introduction of New Vice Chair- Chris Morris
 - b. Introduction of New LSAs
 - c. Introduction of New Post Docs
 - d. Introduction of New GSS Rep
- II. Safety Culture Minute (Morris)
- III. Breakout Sessions (15 minutes)
- IV. Approval of Minutes (May 8, 2025)
- V. Committee Reports
 - a. Lab Safety Culture Awards (Carter)
- VI. Special Topic Discussion
 - a. LSA Meetings Recap and LSA Program Overview
- VII. Incidents/Concerns
 - a. Cyanide Incident (Moser)
 - b. MAE Incident (Aaron)
- VIII. RAS updates (Moser)
- IX. Items from the floor
- X. Next meeting **October 2nd, 2025**

Attachments and References:

- Agenda
- May LSC Meeting Minutes

Topic Summaries:

I. Introductions/Opening

The LSC Chair, Dr. Sarah Mobley, opened the meeting at 1:31PM. Sarah welcomed the numerous new members of the LSC that recently joined. New Lab Safety Advocates, Post-Doctoral Scholar representatives, Facilities Services representatives, and a representative from the Graduate Student Senate were introduced. The LSC is grateful for their membership and commitment to the safety of our campus.

II. Safety Culture Minute

Doug Aaron reported an incident in MAE involving a heavy door on an instrument. A student's hand was injured while closing the door. The incident investigation revealed that a bolt that was essential to the door's safe operation was not threaded properly at the time of installation. CorVel response in this situation was fast and resolved successfully. The lesson learned in this situation is to consider what may happen if the safeguards in place fail.

Chris Morris also summarized the success of TCE Safety Day on August 14th. Events included multiple seminars, a demonstration lab, fire extinguisher training, lab cleanouts, and safety discussions. The LSC hopes to expand Safety Day beyond TCE in the future.

III. Breakout Sessions

The LSC broke out into groups to discuss topics members want to cover in upcoming LSC meetings.

Green group

- Facilities interactions
- Floods in lab
- Access control and security
- Waste disposal (LN₂)
- Document review
- Door placards
- Building systems design (ventilation)
- Utility disruption

Orange group

- New faculty onboarding/guide (i.e. lab commissioning, CHP, safety culture)
- Building ventilation
- Facilities interactions
- Door signs (area of need: reliable contact information)
- How to make labs more accessible to Facilities personnel

Yellow group

- How to handle unlabeled materials (and how to dispose of them)
- How to prevent dumping incidents
- Shared space best practices (communication methods, waste management)
- Best practices for managing a lab without a lab manager

Blue group

- Building access and security
- Better communication methods from the LSA to their unit

IV. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting (May 8, 2025)

The minutes from 5/8/2025 were approved as written with 10 abstentions (new members).

V. Committee Reports

Lab Safety Culture Awards – Carolina Carter shared that there were no submissions for quarter 3. Submissions for quarter 4 are currently being accepted. All nominations for the Smoky's Choice Award are posted on the webpage. The new communications position in EHS will help advertise the awards.

VI. Special Topic Discussion

LSA 2:1 Feedback Meetings

Emily Deem presented on the findings from the feedback meetings with the LSAs over the summer. Linda Hamilton and Emily Deem met with the LSAs from June to August to discuss the LSA role, including its current state and improvements to the function of the role. A list of questions was presented to each LSA, but the LSAs were encouraged to share experiences outside of the questions. Ideas were generated regarding assistance to LSAs, including opportunities for training and more thorough onboarding.

LSA Program Overview

As part of LSA program improvement, Linda Hamilton covered the current LSA Program document, located on the EHS website. The LSA program includes several stakeholders, including the LSC, EHS, ADR, and DH. Several responsibilities of the LSA are outlined in the program document, including assisting with commissioning and decommissioning processes and attending LSC meetings. LSAs are encouraged to review and suggest changes to the program document.

VII. Incidents/Concerns**Cyanide Incident**

Scott Moser reported an incident that occurred in early August that involved an exposure to potassium cyanide. During a lab cleanout, the PI was cleaning glassware contaminated with potassium cyanide. The vacuum system used for cleaning malfunctioned and filled the glassware with water. A student came over to assist and was exposed to 2-3mL of 1M cyanide. The student was not wearing gloves and there was contact with the skin. The PI instructed student to wash their hands and then visited the Risk Management site to see next steps. Confusion about the site led the PI to call EHS, who then instructed the PI to call CorVel. The PI took the exposed student to the hospital, but treatment for cyanide exposure was not clearly known. One lesson learned is to clearly list the process for seeking treatment after an injury or exposure within your lab. When working with hazardous materials, think about if an exposure would cause a life-threatening situation or not. This can help determine when CorVel should be called (if a paid employee is injured).

Discussion amongst members generated more suggestions for situations like this. One LSC member suggested generating a list of acute toxins for CorVel to have in a database to reduce confusion about treatment procedures. Another member suggested that labs with toxins should have the number for Poison Control easily accessible. There was another suggestion for liaising with the ER Director at the UT Medical Center for coordination of efforts in the event of an exposure/injury. Further discussions will include what can be done at the programmatic level to reduce confusion around incident response.

VIII. RAS Updates

Scott Moser presented the RAS updates. As a reminder, RAS is the newly formed unit with EHS that covers Research and Academic Safety. This unit consists of radiation safety, biological safety, chemical safety, and general laboratory safety. As of September, 11 departments have completed annual safety reviews. Over the summer, Billy Garner and Taylor Do performed 325 fume hood checks. Marsha Smith added that the door placards are being updated, with a draft expected at next month's meeting. Trainings have been moved to Canvas Catalog for students and K@te for employees. The training website has been updated and now includes all Mindfulness Minutes.

IX. Items from the floor

None

X. Next Meeting

Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, from 1:30pm – 3:00pm EST.

[Meeting Adjourned at 2:47pm]