

## Science and Medicine Safety Committee - Joint Local Safety Committee

# Record of Meeting

**Location:** EII-164   **Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017   **Time:** 1:30 PM

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### Attendees:

- Igor Chetyrin (SCIE)
- Corrina Ewan (CHEM)
- Janice Gough (BIOL)
- Rosemary Pulez (CHEM)
- Susan Gnucci (PHYS)
- Sara Ohora (DMS)
- Brad Binges (BIOL, greenhouse)
- Mike Pfleger (PHYS)
- Margaret Blake (BCMB)
- Charmaine Wetherell (BCMB)
- Frank van Veggel (CHEM)
- Troy Hasanen (Occupational Health, Safety & Environment)

### Absent:

- Terry Russell (SEOS)
- Paul Birney (PHYS)
- Fiona Puszka (Campus Security)
- Kurt McBurney (Division of Medical Sciences)

**Employer Co-Chair:** Igor Chetyrin, **Employee Co-Chair:** Corrina Ewan, **Recorder:** Valeria Bazan

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### Agenda items:

1. Approval of the agenda. Agenda approved.
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held September 26, 2017. No changes. Minutes approved.
3. Business arising:
  - OHSE - Andy Mavretic reported on the status of fume hood sashes inspections in the Bob Wright Centre. The deteriorated fume hood sashes that have been identified and reported by the Chemistry department are a safety hazard that require an immediate solution. During the inspection it was found that temporary repairs (such as patches) have been done in a couple of places, but general deterioration over time has been identified. Facilities Management (FM) is exploring the potential cost implications of redesigning of the whole system (which would possibly include the replacement of the glass panels of the 59 fume hoods) as a long-term solution. Andy Mavretic mentioned he will follow up with FM in a couple of weeks and will provide an update to the Committee.
4. New Business:
  - Campus Security update.
    - Igor Chetyrin informed that, according to FMGT the bike rack from the north side of the breezeway between the Elliott Buildings will be returned once the work on Elliott Building's roof is finalized, probably till the end of October.
    - There was consensus among the members of the Committee about the high participation in this year's earth quake drill.

- OHSE update.
  - Laboratory safety training will be provided on Tuesday, November 14, 2017
- Workplace inspections review: Susan Gnucci reported that the Department of Physics had its inspection in October.
- Review of Department incident and hazard reports:
  - BIOL Cunn\_136 incident (solution spill) on October 16, 2017

While preparing samples the student spilled solution on her left thigh. The student rinsed off her thigh using water and soap, meanwhile Campus Security was called. Campus Security called the EMRs, they couldn't enter the building until they were cleaned to do so, which delayed their response. The student was taken to the hospital and stayed there for 5 hours.

The Biology department will remind students that chemicals handling should be done over the lab benches and not over their bodies. SDS recommends the use of nitrile gloves (lab uses vinyl, and will check to see if this is an appropriate barrier). The sodium azide concentration was below the threshold indicated on MSDS guide. The department will check how this incident was reported and will explore a way to smooth and expedite the system's response to this type of incidents.

5. Other business. Time of the meeting will remain the same in 2018.
6. Next meeting will be on November 28, 2017 at 1:30pm in Petch 206.