

# UNBC LAB SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**DATE: March 20, 2023**

Time: 9:00am – 10:00am Meeting hosted via MS Teams

## **Attendees:**

**Tammy Klassen-Ross**, Chair Sr. Instructor HLSC (FOHHS)  
**Alina Constantin** – Co-Chair, Sr. Lab Instructor (FOHHS)  
**Maik Gehloff** – WIDC Lab (FOSE)  
**Kaila Fadock** – Sr Lab Instructor (FOSE)  
**Calin Claassens** – NUGSS Rep  
Jennifer Skaar – Recording Secretary

## **Absent:**

**Saphida Migabo** – ESM (FOE)  
**Oliver Iorhemen** – Asst Prof EENG (FOSE)  
**Hossein Kazemian** – Sr Lab Instructor (NALS)  
Conan Ma – Chemical Safety Officer / RSO  
Scott McMillan – Manager of OH&S  
*Vacant* – Grad Rep  
*Vacant* – NHSRF Coordinator

### **1. Meeting Called to order – 9:11am**

### **2. Territory Acknowledgement – Tammy**

### **3. AGENDA**

- Terms of Reference for the Lab Safety Committee – add as new business per Kaila
- No additions or changes. All in favour

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 27, 2023**

- No changes or corrections to the minutes– motion to approve Kaila & Alina. All in favour.

### **5. SAFETY OFFICER REPORTS**

#### **a) Chemical Safety Report – Jennifer for Conan**

-Conan was unable to make today's meeting but provided an update to be shared with the Committee.

-1 incident involving the CO2 system discharge. The investigation is underway, but the discharge appears to have occurred due to mechanical failure from either the detector or along the CO2 lines.

-From a chemical safety perspective:

- there were no visible signs or evidence of fire (no scorch marks, burn marks, melted caps, or exploded bottles);
- all bottles were in good physical condition and all caps were screwed on with no visible signs of damage;
- it is expected that if a fire did occur in the room, the results would likely be an explosion and the only place that would have the fuel/air mixture that is conducive to ignition would be inside the bottles. Facilities is certain both ventilation ducts were working at the time which would capture any potential leaked vapours, filtering them out of the room and preventing the potential for explosive build up;
- None of the materials stored in the room have an autoignition temperature that could be event remotely achievable in that space (lowest is around 200 degrees C) -nothing could have self-ignited;
- Observations were collaborated by the initial responding firefighting crew;
- Conan has moved all the hazmat materials from the room into flammable resistive cabinets across campus until the CO2 system can be recharged, sensors investigated and/or replaced. Facilities have provided a rough ETA of 5 weeks for everything to be completed.
- Conan will provide an update and answer any questions at the April meeting.

-Conan has a few Lab Inspections that are outstanding but is hoping to catch up in April/May.

-No other chemical incidents or accidents to report.

#### **b) Biosafety Officer – Jennifer for Conan**

-No biosafety incidents or accidents to report.

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING

None

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Terms of Reference - Kaila

-Kaila noted it has been a while since the terms of reference for the Lab Safety Committee have been reviewed, is this something we should add for next month?

-Tammy confirmed it is time for a review to be done. Jennifer will add a working copy to MS Teams for everyone to take a look and add in their comments.

## 9 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

-Alina asked if there is a new person in Animal Care with Natalie having left? Jennifer confirmed.

## 10 MEETING AJOURNED AT: 9:43am

### ACTION ITEMS

Item #	Description	Who	Action
1	Review of the Visitors to Labs policy –currently in draft	Safety Office	Tabled for response from Safety
3	Funding for permanent solution for special fume hood accommodation	Conan	Kaila and Conan to reach out to safety in summer 2021 for funding to move forward.
4.	Service dogs in lab space policy	Safety Office	Tabled for response from Safety to align with the UNBC animals on campus policy.
5.	Classification of Lab Space	Safety Office	Tabled for input from Safety.
Standing	Procedure for UNBC Labs under Evacuation	Emergency Ops	Remaining as a standing item. To be addressed by emergency operations.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: APRIL 17TH**

**TIME: 9:00AM TO 10:00AM – MS TEAMS - *UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED***

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES: MAY 15, 2023**