LABORATORY SAFETY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Spring 2026 LSC Minutes

DATE: 4/6/2026

Time: 11:00AM – 12:00PM

PLACE: Teams Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Duranceau, Ph.D., P.E. (Florida) Professor CECE (Committee Chair) *

David Fikhman, Chemical Hygiene Officer EHS (Secretary) *

Jose Vazquez, PH.D. Director EHS *

Yu Yuan, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Chemistry *

Jayanta Kapat, Ph.D. Professor MAE

Shawn Putnam, Ph.D. Assistant Professor MAE

Han Zhao, Ph.D. Professor Physics

Suren Tatulian, Ph.D. Associate Professor*

Physics Anna Savage, Ph.D. Assistant Professor

Biology Alex Cole, Ph.D. Professor BSBS *

Erin Burns, Environmental Engineering Laboratory Manager CECE *

Patrick LiKamWa, Ph.D. Associate Professor CREOL *

James Ross, Assistant in Development Engineering CREOL *

Woo Hyoung Lee, Ph.D. Associate Professor CECE

Sudipta Seal, Ph.D. Pegasus Professor, University Distinguished Professor/Chair MSE *

Ernest Gemeinhart, Coordinator Facilities Operations ORO *

Ignacio Areas, Laboratory Manager NSTC *

Franco Del Pino, Laboratory Safety Specialist II EHS *

Josh Roy, Laboratory Safety Specialist EHS *

Andrew Jones, Laboratory Safety Specialist, Lake Nona Campus EHS *

David Lara, EHS Officer, Lake Nona Campus EHS *

(* = in attendance)

1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11:00 meeting started
11:02 meeting called to ordered by Steve Duranceau

2) **APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve last minutes – Ernie Gemeinhart & James Ross at 11:04
Motion passed at 11:04

3) **OLD BUSINESS**

A) Lack of cell phone service in CREOL-ENG1-ENG2-RES1
EHS doesn't handle cell services but tried to raise the issue to emergency management, recommended to reach out to IT. Dr. Duranceau informs us that the new router system does not go through walls. 'If someone gets hurt and they can't use their phone in the labs... this is a huge issue and it's on the University.'
Asked for the return of landlines, no progress.

B) Ordering of chemicals on ExpCard causing issues
EHS trying to communicate to PI's that they shouldn't be ordering hazardous chemicals on their expense cards.
Dr. Duranceau asked if there was a policy noting what can and cannot be used, as newer professors may not know what an allowable purchase on the cards is.

C) Staffing of EHS
Working with Bob Emery to do an evaluation to see what sort of staffing EHS needs. Will that happen this year, next year, or when we have the budget? Jose hopes that it can be done before the summer. Dr. Duranceau says if this is not done by fall, he will ask the committee to direct EHS to conduct the study.

D) Hazardous chemical pickups and significant delays
PI's having delays with chemical pickups. Contact Aaron directly if you are experiencing any significant delays. Remove from old business.

E) Central requisition of chemicals

No further information for acquiring a central requestion of chemicals. Issue persists with hazardous chemicals being delivered to the wrong locations. Will stay on old business.

4) NEW BUSINESS

A) Storm drain chemical spill

Chlorine spills into some of the smaller ponds on Main Campus. One company on the Howard Phillips Hall used concentrated bleach, and the effluent/waste from the building's roof cleaning went into the ponds, storm drains, and potentially into the wetlands. Samples were collected, remediation happened, and Duranceau does not think that UCF should/will be working with the company again. The situation has been contained, and facilities is more closely monitoring how buildings are cleaned. Additionally, UCF worked with the FDEP to make them aware of the situation and report everything they needed to them.

B) Lab accidents and Investigations updates

8 lab accidents

- Lab accidents and Investigations updates
- A student had finished running a sample and meant to press a button that rotates a carousel so they could take their sample back. They clicked the autoinjector, which put their sample back in a tube. They were concerned this would cause a problem for the computer, so they tried taking their sample out before it could go in and cut their finger on the injector. The student was not following proper procedure on how to use the NMR instrument and should not have reached into the NMR. The student and supervisor had a discussion about safety and how to properly use the NMR.
- A student had left a ethanol fuel cell that was undergoing an oxygen reduction reaction to produce water alone in their lab space while they went to do data analysis in their office. While they were doing this, the experiment called for the outlet of the cell to go into a flask to fill with water to verify oxygen was entering the cell. While this was happening, the beaker overflowed and spilled onto the floor. EHS conducted an inspection while this was happening and had the student fill this out as a near-miss, as the liquid became a slipping hazard, and to those not aware of what reaction going on this was an unknown chemical spilling out. The student was talked to and an understanding that a larger flask should be used and labeled next time, and that the flask should be periodically poured out so it does not spill out onto the floor.
- A student was preparing a gaseous mixture, where two supply lines were connected to a gas manifold. These consisted of a gas line for a cylinder in the fume hood, for toxic gases, and a gas line for inert gas. The student inadvertently swapped the two lines when connecting to the manifold, and this went unnoticed while the toxic ammonia gas was open to the atmosphere. The operator was briefly exposed, and when this was noticed, the supply line was immediately

closed and the room was evacuated to allow for the gas to clear. The correction done here was that the lines should be clearly differentiated, with high-contrast label colors, and larger unambiguous labeling to distinguish the fume hood line from the inert gas line. A dedicated, permanent connection was proposed as well, so both lines remain connected at all times, to eliminate disconnecting and reconnecting lines during operation.

- A student was performing an extraction using a separatory funnel, and the glassware broke while the student was shaking it. As a result, the reaction spilled onto the student. The experiment was immediately stopped and the student sought medical attention at an urgent care facility. The student was indeed wearing PPE and asked why they were shaking their glassware. A discussion was had, and the student said it was a part of the experimental procedure, to which was replied that this should be adjusted so that no glassware is shaken, or if it is necessary, to use tools that would prevent the vessel from breaking.
- A student was working on a recrystallization of a mixture containing succinimide and N-Bromo succinimide. The student felt lightheaded and dizzy and had to leave the lab. The corrective action was that the student should be performing experiments within the fume hood and keep any chemicals away from their face.
- A student had gotten a chemical in their eye that led to a burning feeling, leading to tears and pain. This had occurred during the cleanup phase of the laboratory class and was caused by the student touching their face. This may have been worsened as well by the student wiping their eyes with their shirt multiple times. The follow-up for this is currently ongoing, as there has been no communication back yet from the student involved.
- A student took their glove off their right hand to remove tape from a 100 mL beaker, with ammonia inside of it spilling onto their right hand. The pinky finger had a previous cut, which began to burn upon contact. This was immediately reported to the TA, and the hand was rinsed for 5 minutes. After the area was cleaned, the burning subsided. A follow-up was conducted, and the corrective action was that the student should ensure PPE always remains on to provide the maximum amount of barrier between themselves and chemicals and should not be removed until all chemicals are put away.
- A student broke a 50-mL graduated cylinder while cleaning it and cut the top of their left hand and one finger on his right hand. The student cleaned the cut with a first aid kit outside of the laboratory, and after wrapping it up was cleared to continue the lab. The student had what they needed to continue caring for their cut at home, so they did not follow up with the health center. The cause was that the student was trying to clean their beaker with water, and held onto it with too much pressure, causing it to shatter. The student was spoken to and proper handling of glassware was discussed, as well as more awareness with the grip they are handling glassware with.

C) EHS responding to unknown chemicals

EHS doesn't collect unknown waste. University vendors will collect them directly from labs. Vendors will also be able to characterize waste on the bill of the department. An unknown waste tab is being created on the website. The issue persists throughout the campus. Often it happens when grad students leave a lab.

D) Procedure for faculty that leave mid semester

Faculty leaving without full cleanouts leaves students, staff, and other PIs with the issue of attempting to handle the old chemicals. Duranceau asked if there was anything we can do to stop this from happening, and while EHS does have forms, how are these being enforced?

It would be good for the chairs to be involved, if they are not already, but it can be a bit difficult when Faculty leave on such short notice.
Erin mentioned the idea of making it a required step for offboarding any faculty leaving are required to do a walkthrough and cleanout with EHS.

Dr. Duranceau asks if we can do anything with HR to enforce this, potentially a hold on the last payment. Jose says we can reach out to them to see if that is possible.

Jose mentions that part of the issue is that EHS is also not properly involved, meaning that EHS does not always know when someone is leaving.

Ernie also agrees with James and Erin that this needs to be handled better to ensure a smooth transition.

E) Self-inspection checklist

Dr. Duranceau pointed out that there may be some issues with the self-inspection checklist.
David points out this is not an all-encompassing list; rather it is a list of the most common issues.
Dr. Duranceau asked for an all-encompassing list that will show everything that will be looked at and inspected.
David brings up that the lab safety manual and the inspection checklist available online are the complete list. The Self inspection checklist that was sent out was just meant to show the most common issues.
Dr. Duranceau says let's keep it to one consistent list, not the most common issues. Just one full list.

F) Notice of shared violations for shared labs

Dr. Duranceau does not like that everyone receives the violation of remarks in shared spaces when they do not create the issues. For example, one PI makes an error, but three PIs are in the lab. Meaning all three get an email about the situation.

Erin Burns brings up that this feels unfair, as that makes everyone get the violation.

David brings up this is meant to be a notification, but Erin says this still feels like an unfair blackmark.
Dr. Duranceau mentions that this also causes extra paperwork.
David brings up that we cannot give individual reports sadly, due to EHSA. Additionally, when we are not given feedback, it is harder to determine who is the original owner of the problem. As EHS is not part of the lab space, the PIs and students would have to communicate more as it is harder for us to tell.

Duranceau and David talk about how to remove them, and David mentions that we remove excess markings when PIs indicate that they are not the owner of the problem.

Duranceau mentions that the other professor won't know about the issue, and it causes extra interruption. Is there a way that we can inform the faculty of the issue beforehand?
David – EHS could adjust the LSM, but it requires PIs to read it.
Duranceau proposes the idea of an informative form/file being sent out beforehand so they can tell us what is and isn't their belonging.

Erin – Maybe add a line to violation reports to say, 'If this violation in a shared space does not belong to you email EHS to let us know.' Then it can be removed from the professors who did not cause the issue within the shared space. This could be a good way to mitigate the issue.

G) LSC Charter Updates
EHS noticed the state law changed that certain terminology that is not allowed to be official. The Committee started to look at the definitions and the make-up of the committee, made sure that the titles were correct, and the voting committee members were very clear. Certain number of subject matter experts in attendance for quorum. Will send revisions to Winston for approval. Motion for approval at 11:56 by Ernie and James Ross. Motion approved at 11:57. No opposition.

H) CINTAS Lab Coat Program

EHS managed program, funded by the Office of Research. Research is cutting the funding, so PI's will have to fund the PPE for their laboratories. An email will come out from EHS sometime this week (4/6/2026). The contract with Cintas expires on the 21st of April and they will remove all the dispensers shortly thereafter. The return units will remain for a few weeks afterwards to give everyone a chance to return lab coats.

I) Other new business

Ernie – Flushing with eye washes and safety showers is being limited/eliminated. Starts with ones in labs and will then move to the ones in hallways. Ernie worries that as it transfers to becoming a lab personnel responsibility that it will not be taken care of. This is a weekly inspection.

It will start as a 'pilot program test' at Engineering and then may move across campus. Ernie worries it will fall on the Lab managers and impede their ability to conduct their regular business.

Dr. Duranceau asked when we were going to find this out. As he has never heard of this until now. If there is an emergency or if something happens and the equipment hasn't been tested, who is liable? Asked for a motion to show opposition to this decision as it is a life safety issue.

At 12:10 James makes the motion that the University should continue this service. Ernie seconds the motion. All in favor, no opposition. Motion passes at 12:11 PM.

Dr. Duranceau asked Jose to bring this up to those in charge due to the safety concern.

5) ADJOURN UNTIL FALL SEMESTER

Motion to adjourn – 12:12PM
Motion passed