

**McMaster University
Faculty of Engineering
Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

JHE A114

Management Member	Department	Attendance
Ian Bruce (Co-Chair)	ECE	Regrets
Barb Eftekhari	BTech	Regrets
Carm Vespi	Alumni	Absent
Doug Keller (Certified Member)	Management Cert. Member	Present
Ghani Razaqpur	Civil Engineering	Present
Marek Niewczas	Materials Science	Present
Prashant Mhaskar	Chemical Engineering	Present
Stephen Tullis	Mechanical Engineering	Present
Qiyin Fang	Engineering Physics	Regrets
Robert Fleisig	Engineering 1	Regrets
Vladimir Mahalec	SEP	Absent
Yiping Guo	Civil	Absent

Worker Member	Department	Attendance
John Nakamura (Co-Chair)	Computing and Software	Present
Anna Robertson	Civil	Present
Doris Stevanovic	CEDT	Present
Dulcie Amaral	SEP	Present
Elizabeth Takacs	MMRI	Absent
Jeanne Norris	Engineering 1	Regrets
Jim McLaren (Certified Member)	Mechanical	Regrets
Justyna Derkach (Certified Member)	Chemical	Present
Kent Wheeler	Civil	Regrets
Manesh Khanna	MMRI	Present
Michelle LePalud	CUPE	Absent
Omar Danta	BTech	Present
Peter Jonasson	Engineering Physics	Present
Terry Greenlay	Electrical & Computing Engineering	Present

Consultants	Department	Attendance
Sheila Rieth	EOHSS	Regrets
Dane DeMan	EOHSS	Present

ISSUES FOR CENTRAL TO ADDRESS	Action Items

1. Minutes & Announcements

<p>Minutes Approval:</p> <p>Dr. Ian Bruce, Management Co-Chair: _____</p> <p>John Nakamura, Worker Co-Chair: _____</p> <p>Some minor changes were made to the July 2010 minutes. Minutes were then unanimously approved by the committee.</p>	<p>Approved July 2010 minutes were submitted to EOHSS on August 27, 2010</p>
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2. Business Arising

<p>Inspections List – Please hand in J. Nakamura asked if there were any outstanding Inspection Lists. Engineering Physics submitted theirs, and all that is outstanding is the new Engineering Technology Building.</p> <p>H&S Representative – General Engineering The committee is still looking for one volunteer for a General Engineering representative. A letter has been sent to the Dean to ask whether or not there has been any progress with finding a representative. Nothing has been finalized yet with regards to the new representative, but J. Nakamura will follow up with the Dean to find out. In the mean time, if you know anyone who is interested, please let J. Nakamura know.</p> <p>Fire Alarms – Decibel Level D. De Man reported to the committee that S. Rieth looked into this concern. She spoke to Laraine Bell and both the building inspector and fire department were in attendance during the testing and certification. The decibel levels were all within the specifications. Any other further questions or concerns should be directed towards Laraine Bell.</p> <p>D. Stevanovic asked D. De Man if they know what the decibel levels are, as it was Engineering Physics that submitted an incident report because one of the faculty members retreated back to his office instead of evacuating the building because the decibel level on the fire alarm</p>	<p>Co-chairs to follow up with status of General Engineering Representative.</p>
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<p>was so loud. D. De Man did not have the answer for this. J. Nakamura indicated that S. Rieth sent a pdf regarding the decibel levels, and he will post the findings on the faculty health and safety notice area. It appears that the fire alarms range from 86-99 decibels. The committee agreed that 99 seemed to be a bit high.</p> <p>D. Keller mentioned that he was speaking with one of the security guards who said the idea behind the loud alarms is to make it so painful that it would drive people out of the building. However, this could be ineffective, as in the above case it drove someone back into their office. He stated that this could make it very difficult for the fire wardens to get people out of the building. The only solution that D. Keller got back from the security guard was that they all carry ear plugs for this type of situation.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion continued with regards to the decibel levels being too high, various inconsistencies with alarms in each building, and using proper judgment on evacuating the building in case of a fire alarm. D. DeMan stated that further follow up may be needed.</p>	
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3. New Business

<p>Inspection Summary Sheets J. Nakamura told the committee that it's the time of year again where the summary inspection sheets needs to be completed and handed in. For those of you who are new to the committee this is a listing of all of the rooms that are supposed to be inspected by your department, and the listing should indicate that all the rooms have been inspected during the calendar year. Please complete these summary sheets and submit them as soon as possible.</p> <p>SOP – fluidized bed Mechanical Engineering has an SOP that needs to be reviewed. J. Nakamura posted this last week on the members area of the website. Please take a look at this, as it will be reviewed at the September meeting.</p>	
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4. Incident Reports

<p>Engineering had three incidents to report.</p>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student in Chemical Engineering was trying to dispose of leftover monomers in a lab. Some flasks were not closed properly and the smell of some volatile chemicals went into the lab and hallway. The door was locked and a “do not enter” sign was posted on the door immediately. • A student staff member from the Venture camp was walking between buildings barefoot when she lost footing and slipped and scraped her toes. The staff member was instructed to wear proper, closed toe footwear while at work. • A child attending the Venture camp stepped on a nametag pin which imbedded in his foot while partaking in water activities on the front lawn area. He removed the pin himself from his foot at which time it was noted that the pin was rusted. The child was instructed that closed toe shoes must be worn at all times including water activities. 	
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5. Safety Reports

Area	Report Submitted
B Tech	Yes
CAS	No
Chemical Engineering	Yes – Inspections of 2 labs. One had some minor housekeeping issues. One of the corridors had some burnt out lights as well as a glass cover on the fire hose was broken. A graduate office also had a broken glass cover on one of the smoke detectors.
Civil Engineering	No
ECE	No
Engineering Physics and CEDT	No
General Engineering	No
Materials Science and Engineering	Yes
Mechanical Engineering	Yes
MMRI	Yes

6. Central Committee Minutes/Incidents

<p>It was noted that the minutes received from the Central Committee have not been up to date, and that the last files that were sent were not in the proper pdf format.</p> <p>CJHSC minutes can be found in the following link: http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/eohss/prevention/jhsc/</p>	
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7. Other Business

Eye Wash and Safety Showers

D. Keller mentioned to the committee that previously eye wash stations and safety showers were inspected monthly. He had noticed that it has been a couple months since some have been inspected, and apparently due to a reduction in staff, inspections will take place once a year, which is the minimum requirement from the ministry of labour. The suggestion is that anyone in their own lab, who is concerned and wants to run them every month or week to flush out the rust, should do it themselves.

P. Jonasson wanted to know if there was a database online that kept track of all the individuals who have taken health and safety training.

D. De Man said that they have the ability to pull reports at EOHSS that can provide listings of all the courses than an individual has taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 8, at 9:30 a.m. in JHE A114.

PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot attend this meeting please send regrets to Lindsay DeVuyst at devuyst@mcmaster.ca