

SCHOOL of CHEMISTRY HEALTH and SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 7th April 2006 at 2:15 p.m. in room 7.27

In attendance: Dr. E.M.Armstrong (Chairman), Dr. D.J.Smith (Secretary), Mr. K. Jones, Mr J. Robinson, Mr. T Graham, Ms. C.Davidge, Mr G. Smith, Mr. A.Griffiths, Dr. P. Quayle and Prof. F. Livens

1. Apologies

Prof. P. O'Brien, Mr. A. Sutherland, Ms. C. Arthurs and Dr. J.J.McDouall

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 6th February 2006 at 2:15 p.m. in room 4.20, were passed with an amendment :

Under Apologies - add Mr. A. Griffiths

3. Matters Arising

- 5. Representatives from the Teaching Committee and Research Sections have been appointed to the committee
- 5 Fire Marshals - CD to check with Rachel Valentine at the TDU about running a course specifically for Chemistry
- 9. A Fire Drill will be held on the Friday 26th May
- 9. Committee minutes are now available on the School website
- 9. The policy covering children in the building is with the Management Committee for comment
- 9. Crush on the 4th Floor - awaiting action
- 9. Switches - tape ordered and delivery awaited
- 9. Dave Howarth the Deputy Building Supervisor to replace John Knights on the committee

4. Correspondence

A letter from Central Safety Services re risk assessments for students on industrial placements and on Erasmus exchange schemes

5.**Chairman's Business**

REACH :- Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals is a new EU legislation which will come into force soon and may lead to rationalisation of stocks by large suppliers leading to some chemicals not being available. More information about its impact on the research sector is awaited

6. Faraday Building H&S

New Fire Alarm System

The new system was commissioned and put into use but triggered numerous false alarms. In part this is due to the system being battery powered and since it was installed 3 years ago a number of the batteries are failing. The old and new systems had been coupled together to try and solve audibility problems but there were still too many false alarms. The systems have now been decoupled and the new system is to be powered down, batteries are to be replaced and faults to be rectified before the system is completely re-commissioned. Further problems have arisen as some units are mounted in risers since shown to be contaminated with asbestos and access to these components is denied until this asbestos has been stripped out. Therefore, currently the building continues to rely on the old system.

The old system is based on heat rather than smoke detectors which trigger later in the fire cycle. Concern was expressed that there is no Reception/front of house cover which means that as people move out of the building the population may become so sparse that a fire may get a considerable hold before it is detected.

EMA to approach Estates re front of house staff

7. Arrangements for Inspections

4th Floor Wednesday 12th April at 9:30 pm EMA, DJS, GS

2nd Floor Tuesday 9th May at 2:00 pm EMA, DJS, GS, FL, CD

8. Dates of next meeting(s)

Friday 9th June at 2:15 p.m. in 7.27

A.O.B.

The liquid nitrogen dewars being filled on the stores loading bay spit out liquid when full and complaints have been received from delivery drivers. Users must stay with the dewars when filling them as a matter of course and a system will be developed and installed to direct the vented material safely outside.

Flooring in the back corridor on the ground floor behind the computer cluster needs attention as it is so worn it is creating a slip/trip hazard.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 14:50 p.m.