

Faculty of Science Safety Committee Meeting

February 27, 2026, ~ 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Dean of Science Boardroom

Attendees:

Dean of Science Office & Meeting Chairperson - Dr. Sam Veres, Dean of Science

Dean of Science Office – Leanne Lucas, Science Safety Advisor

Department of Astronomy and Physics – Dr. Mike Dunlavy

Department of Chemistry - Jennifer Wright, Dr. Jason Clyburne

Animal Facility: Caila Henderson

Department of Biology – Dr. David Chiasson

Department of Biology and Forensic Science – Dr.

Timothy Frasier

Department of Earth Science – Dr. Mitch Kerr

Human Resources Department – absent

Facilities Management Department – absent

Minute taker – April Scheller, Dean of Science Office

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at: 1:05pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

Call for Agenda Item Additions

None

Minutes from the December meeting

Minutes approved and carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

Update on Removal of First Stage Alarm

L. Lucas hasn't heard back from Kevin Trudeau, will move to a later meeting.

REPORTS

Safety Advisor Report

Summary of Injury/Incident Reports for Faculty of Science

Incident Number	Month	Incident Summary
N/A	November	Highway car accident with a transport truck. They were examined by paramedics and evaluated at the hospital later that evening and there were no internal injuries. The Supervisor recommended they check out physio on campus if they are feeling sore. The rental car was towed and there was some confusion on who to report the incident to at SMU. L. Lucas suggested Noreen Miller, who is handling risk files at the moment.
N/A	November	Acetone splashed onto student's face from a wash bottle. There was no injury. They washed their face with water and a soapy towel. They were reminded to slow down and pay more attention.
N/A	December	Stabbed hand with clean pipette. It is missing from the report since the person was here on outreach and doesn't come up in the SMU system. They ran their hand under the water and were given a band aid. They were reminded how to properly use the equipment. L. Lucas spoke with the Supervisor, and they agreed to not use glass pipettes during outreach events, as plastic pipettes are compatible with the chemicals used during the experiment.
N/A	December	Low oxygen alarm. This is a recurring issue that being investigated. Security contacted the faculty member who arrived on campus and removed the nitrogen tank out of the room, away from the sensors. There is a sign on the door to leave it open so the sensors can detect the oxygen levels in both rooms. The tank will be moved 1.5metres, so it is not directly across from the sensors. L. Lucas discussed with the faculty member the possibility of a different location for the tanks and will possibly discuss with Facilities in the future.
N/A	December	Exterior door chained shut posing safety risk.

Lab Inspection Results

Reviewed lab inspections from 2025. Inspections were due Jan 31, 2026. Inspections received from the following:

- All Science – 73.1% (2024 – 57.3%)
- Biology – 72.7% (2024 – 8.3%)
- Chemistry – 58.3% (Some are to be completed) (2024 – 76%)
- ENVS – 40% (2024 – 80%)

- Earth Science – 81.8% (2024 – 100%)
- Astronomy and Physics – 100% (2024 – 100%)
- Dean of Science – 64.7% (Some are to be completed) (2024 – 47%)
- Engineering – 100% (2024 – not completed due to lab moves to new building)

Less than 30 out of 100+ inspections are still outstanding. Reminder sent to those with outstanding lab inspections.

No major findings noted from the submitted lab inspection reports.

Discussion about changing the submission method of the inspection reports to a Microsoft form to allow easier review and summary of the inspection reports. Some prefer completing the paper form, and would like this to remain an option.

OHS Consultant: JOHSC Activity and Information

The conversation revolved around planning for an emergency management and response talk as part of NAOSH week in April, with a focus on appropriate responses to various emergencies. There was mention of a session for first-year professors to improve students' self-preservation skills. Additionally, it was discussed about a psychological healthy workplace training session by Jennifer Tupper and a policy prevention plan review by Kevin Calloway, which includes three videos on workplace violence. Please let V. Wadman know if anyone has suggestions for speakers for the North American Occupational Safety and Health Week.

Fire drills are all completed. Currie (university insurance provider) will no longer be doing regular inspections, and it will be taken off the annual calendar.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Dr. Sam Veres
Meeting Chairperson, Faculty of Science Safety Committee
Dean of Science