

ACS COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY (CCS)

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 8, 2002

Combined Open and Executive Session Peabody Hotel Orlando, Florida

Dr. Ken Fivizzani, Chair of the Committee, called the Spring 2002 meeting of the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) to order at 8:40 AM on April 8, 2002. The following Committee members, associates, consultants, and liaisons attended all or part of the meeting: Dr. Robert Alaimo, Dr. Cherlynlavaugn Bradley, Dr. Jack Breazeale, Jr., Dr. Michael Cournoyer, Ms. Jean Delfiner, Dr. Kevin Edgar, Dr. Ken Fivizzani (Chair), Ms. Barbara Foster, Dr. Alan Hazari, Dr. Arthur Marcinkowsky, Dr. Dan McDonald, Mr. Russell Phifer, Dr. Paul Schickedantz, Dr. Diane G. Schmidt, Ms. Eileen Segal, Mr. Stephen Sichak, Sr., Dr. Herb Silber (ConC liaison), Mr. Erik Talley, Dr. Rubye Torrey, Dr. Wayne Wolsey, and Dr. Jay Young.

ACS staff and governance present for all or part of the meeting included Dr. Lawrence A. Funke (CCS staff liaison) and Mr. Ray Garant (staff liaison, Committee on Environmental Improvement). Dr. Deborah Kilmartin and Mr. Hank Ramsey attended as guests.

1. Approval of Minutes

Following introduction of members and guests, the minutes of the August 27, 2001 meeting were reviewed, and approved as submitted.

CCS1-02 - The Committee VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2001, meeting.

2. Chair's Report

Dr. Fivizzani noted the letters sent from ACS to various government agencies following the September 11, 2001, tragedy volunteering our services. He also noted the one page summary in *Chemical Health & Safety* regarding the activities of the committee. Also noted were copies of the petitions to be presented to Council at the meeting in Orlando. None of the petitions have a direct effect on the Committee.

Dr. Silber suggested that Committee members consider attending the Town Meeting to discuss the size of various ACS groups.

3. Staff Liaison's Report

Dr. Funke noted the CCS report from the Chicago meeting that was sent to *Chemical and Engineering News*. He also mentioned that a variety of information requests have been received and these have generally been referred to Committee members by email for comment or action.

4. Reports of CCS Liaisons

◆ Report from the CEI/CCS Task Force on Laboratory Environment Health and Safety (EH&S) – Mr. Russell Phifer

The Task Force has reorganized under new Chair, Ms. Cynthia Salisbury, and met in November 2001. Accomplishments have included:

- Prepared ACS statement encouraging EPA to develop regulations allowing educational and research laboratories to perform some on-site treatment of RCRA waste.
- *Less is Better* is complete and posted online on the ACS website, chemistry.org, under Office of Legislative and Government Affairs (OLGA) and CCS.
- A Mission statement was completed, as follows:
“Support the Joint Board/Council Committees on Chemical Safety and Environmental Improvement in the advancement of safety, health, and environmental stewardship in chemical laboratories.”

The Task Force established the following general objectives:

- Influence legislation and regulation.
- Inform laboratory professionals to help them understand and comply with EHS regulations.
- Inspire good laboratory EHS management practices.

◆ ACS Division of Chemical Health and Safety - Ms. Eileen Segal

The Division completed a membership poll by email that resulted in a very positive return, 40% of all members with electronic access. The general consensus was significant support for the CHAS journal in its current form, though many would be willing to accept an electronic version. Members generally indicated a willingness to pay higher dues to maintain the high quality of the hard-copy version.

Ken Fivizzani reported that a formal request was sent to ACS President Eli Pearce to support the concept of requiring safety principles in academic criteria. A quick response indicated this was best handled through the Committee on Professional Training, which sets guidelines for such standards.

In a few weeks, the CHAS website will be located at the ACS chemistry.org site. Ralph Stuart will be webmaster following the able tenure of Erik Talley. Robert Hill was named to receive the prestigious Howard Fawcett Chemical Health and Safety Award. Robert Alaimo is the

recipient of the Tillmans-Skolnick Award for Service to the Division. DivCHAS dues are scheduled to increase by \$5.00 in 2003. Copies of *Chemical Safety for Teachers and Their Supervisors, Grades 7-12* and *Safety in the Elementary (K-6) Classroom* (2nd ed.) were distributed.

◆ **Committee on Environmental Improvement**

Dr. Deborah Kilmartin of the Joint Board Council Committee on Environmental Improvement addressed the committee to express an interest in working with CCS on homeland security issues. Ken Fivizzani reiterated Diane Schmidt's effort to volunteer ACS help to government officials. A general discussion followed on chemical safety training associated with major accidents. Dr. Young recommended that the issue be assigned to a subcommittee. Dr. Fivizzani mentioned several other ACS activities associated with bioterrorism and other aspects of emergency response and chemical safety.

◆ **National Chemistry Week - Dr. Jack Breazeale**

Dr. Breazeale noted that NCW is scheduled for October 20-26 this year. "Chemistry Keeps Us Clean" is the theme. The NCW Safety guidelines are available this year to anyone presenting a program. Based on the survey from last year's NCW, it appears that safety is considered an important part of each program. All NCW information is available on the chemistry.org website.

5. Reports of the Subcommittees

A. Safe Practices - Mr. Russell Phifer

The subcommittee reviewed the status of the Mercury Spills booklet being prepared by the Task Force on Laboratory EH&S. It will be available for review at the Boston meeting prior to final editing by the Task Force at its Fall meeting.

A mission statement for the subcommittee was developed – "Provide guidance to CCS on the development and implementation of safety practices in the chemical workplace through the preparation of policy statements and safety related media."

The subcommittee discussed the recent letter regarding the use of sodium or lithium aluminum hydride as drying agents during purification of solvents versus the use of absorbent column-based methods to replace these chemicals, which are highly reactive. Michael Cournoyer agreed to prepare a draft policy statement for the subcommittee covering recommendations for the use of alternative drying/purification techniques.

B. Resources - Dr. Daniel McDonald

The Resources subcommittee reviewed and discussed the CCS mission statement to attempt to define the subcommittee's role. The role established is to identify the needs of the larger chemical community and public to insure that information is developed to meet those needs and to further assure that the information is made available.

The subcommittee recommends that Volumes I and II of *Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories* as revised by Jay Young be submitted for publication (with minor typographical editing). The subcommittee also recommended that Dr. Funke pursue review of the revised documents by *C&EN*. Dr. Torrey will provide a letter addressed to higher education institutions to announce the new editions.

Dr. McDonald will prepare a letter to go to state boards to announce the availability of the K-6 and 7-12 safety publications that will go out under his and Dr. Fivizzani's signature.

CCS2-02 The Committee VOTED unanimously to approve the publication of Volumes I and II of *Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories* following final editing without having it returned to the full committee.

C. Partnerships - Dr. Kevin J. Edgar

Dr. Fivizzani discussed the possible revision of the *Chemical Safety Manual for Small Businesses*. The Table of Contents from the original publication was distributed prior to the meeting for review. The recently revised CCS contact lens policy and information on hand protection will be included in the new edition. Those committee members with strong contacts in the small chemical business community should contact Ken if they are willing to work on the revision.

The subcommittee recognizes the value of establishing working relationships with various groups both within and outside ACS. Examples include SOCED, CPT, CEI, CHAL, and Corporation Associates. The subcommittee and the executive committee will consider methods to promote mutually beneficial relationships.

The subcommittee also discussed the issue of solvent drying techniques, agreeing on the importance of establishing policies.

6. Website Update - Mr. Erik Talley

As previously noted, the URL for access is <http://chemistry.org/committees/ccs>. Mr. Talley noted his new email address erik@etalley.com to which changes and additions to the website should be sent. The revised *Less is Better* is now on the website. CCS is beginning to build a series of "articles" on various safety topics so that information is readily accessible to interested parties. New topics or information items that might be included should be sent to Erik.

7. Old Business

◆ Task Force on Publicizing Activities and Publications – Dr. Alan Hazari

The Task Force has provided 12 recommendations for publicizing CCS activities and publications. These focus on working with various groups (ACS governance, ACS Committee on Professional Training, ACS Local Section Activities Committee, ACS Corporation Associates, ACS Division of Chemical Education, etc.). Other suggestions include providing additional systems for making information available to science administrators, teachers, and science coordinators.

CCS3-02 The Committee VOTED unanimously to discharge the Task Force with appreciation for their efforts.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Delfiner requested that the Mission Statement be changed to reflect the importance of safety at all academic levels. Dr. Funke noted the difficulty in having the committee's formal mission changed. Ms. Delfiner also urged that K-12 safety be stressed on the Committee's website. Dr. Funke will work with Mr. Talley to make sure that K-12 safety will be a point of focus on the site.

Dr. Bradley requested recognition of the contributions and a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Johnnie-Marie Whitfield, a former committee associate, who passed away recently.

Dr. Alaimo confirmed CEI's interest in working with CCS on homeland safety issues. He also noted the support of the ACS Board and its Chair, Dr. Nina McClelland, for CCS and CEI efforts in this area.

Dr. Schickedantz suggested the Committee consider putting all of its safety material on a CD for easy distribution. The Committee discussed several advantages and indicated that this action should be considered.

Mr. Sichak mentioned efforts to develop a "pocket guide" to SACL. Dr. Young said he would be glad to review such a document. Preparation of the pocket guide will be handled through the Resources subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Minutes prepared by Russ Phifer and Larry Funke, with input from the entire committee.