



Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment (OSH&E) Program
Department of Computer Science and Industrial Technology
Southeastern Louisiana University
SLU 10847
Hammond, LA 70402

August 19, 2016

Dear OSH&E Advisory Committee Member,

On behalf of Southeastern Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment (OSH&E) Program, we would like to give our sincere appreciation to you for your involvement in the OSH&E Advisory Committee as well as your participation in the meetings and discussion.

Enclosed please find the report of the OSH&E Advisory Committee meeting that was held on April 22, 2016. Please feel free to let us know should you have any questions and comments!

Our first meeting for the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year will be held as part of the Annual Departmental Advisory Committee Meeting. The 2016 meeting is scheduled on October 28, 2016 on the Hammond campus. A formal invitation will be sent to you soon.

Thank you very much for your continued contribution to the program!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lu Yuan, CSP
Interim Department Head &
Associate Professor

Ms. Dorinda Folse
OSH&E AC Chairperson

Mr. Lance Roux, CSP
OSH&E AC Co-Chairperson

OSH&E Advisory Committee

April 22, 2016 Meeting Report by Mr. Chris Kuiper and Dr. Lu Yuan

The last Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment (OSH&E) Advisory Committee meeting was held from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM on April 22, 2016 in Anzalone Hall 214 on the Hammond campus. (Please see the attached examples of photos!) The attendees include twelve of the twenty-one OSH&E Advisory Committee members (**Appendix A** with update-to-date contact information). Three OSH&E full-time faculty members were present, including Dr. Lu Yuan, Dr. Ephraim Massawe and Mr. Chris Kuiper. Adjunct Instructor Mr. Lawrence Mauerman also attended the meeting. Instructor Mrs. Amanda Brown was ill and unable to attend. Two current OSH&E students, Ms. Emily Carithers and Mr. Brennen Waguespack, were also present. One guest, Steven Springer, was in attendance. Absent were Steve Pereira, Richard Matherne, Don Jones, Wayne LaCombe, Dorinda Folse, Beth Inbau, Dawn Bahm, Alan Rovira, and Reagan Phelps.

Appendix B contains the agenda of the meeting, which started with the welcoming from Mr. Lance Roux. Lance thanked the members for their contribution to the OSH&E program. He told the members that unfortunately Ms. Folse was not able to attend the meeting but she would call silence for Workers' Memorial Day which is on April 28, 2016 should she have been able to attend. Self introductions were followed.

OLD BUSINESS

The first item under old business is OSH&E Employer Survey that was distributed through SurveyMonkey.com in March 2016. The survey was sent to approximately 45 current employers or past employers of graduates or current students from Southeastern's OSH&E program. The employers' contact information was obtained from the OSH&E Alumni Survey Fall 2015 and through other channels. We received a total of 10 responses. A summary of key findings is as follows:

- 1) The top three types of organization are: Construction/Maintenance/Structural, Manufacturing, and Oil and Gas including Exploration, Production and Refinery.
- 2) All employers who responded the survey agreed that our OSH&E program meets each of the four educational objectives, except that one employer answered "Don't know" for Objective 4.
- 3) Employers indicated that all areas of competency (program outcome) are important to the Southeastern OSH&E graduate's job, except for Outcome 1.2. Ability to demonstrate basic principles in chemistry, physics, and biology as it pertains to the practice of safety, health, and environment, which received relatively the lowest ranking among all the outcomes.
- 4) Employers indicated high level of the Southeastern OSH&E graduate's competency in all 18 (program outcome) areas.
- 5) Employers indicated that all of the OSHE courses in the current Southeastern OSH&E Bachelor of Science curriculum are important. Courses that receive the relatively lower ranking include: OSHE 441 *Industrial Toxicology* and OSHE 442 *Principles of Radiation Safety*.
- 6) The other courses/concepts that should be incorporated in the curriculum to meet current and future needs of safety, health, and environment include: speech/oral communication

[COMM 211 *Introduction to Public Speaking* is required for the OSH&E BS curriculum]; Business Writing Management; Process Safety Management Intro to Process (refinery or chemical) [OSHE 381 *Safety in Chemical and Process Industries* and OSHE 424 *System Safety Methodologies* cover this topic]; JSA and Risk Analysis Preparation and Implementation [This topic is addressed in several OSHE courses]. One of the employers said that “All safety professionals should minor in communications.”

- 7) Most employers encourage or require the OSH&E graduates obtain CSP (Certified Safety Professional). Other recommended or required licensure/certification include: CIH (Certified Industrial Hygienist), ASP (Associate Safety Professional), CSST (Construction Site Safety Technician), COSS (Certified Occupational Safety Specialist), OSHA 10, 30, 510, 500, HAZWOPER, etc.
- 8) Every employer who answered the survey said that its organization regularly recruits Southeastern OSH&E graduates and would continue hiring Southeastern OSH&E graduates in the future. Comments and/or suggestions for the OSH&E program include: “Program is great. Make sure to include people skills.”

During the presentation and discussion of the survey results, one suggestion was made to break question 1 into 2 or 3 questions to encourage managers to respond to succinct questions rather than broad ones. Dr. Yuan related the survey results to the OSH&E program objectives. A suggestion was made to change wording in the second objective from “practical” to “practice.” Dr. Yuan would take that recommendation into consideration.

Another recommendation concerned the communication objective. It was suggested that the objective include the word “confident.” This recommendation prompted discussion on OSH&E graduates and the communications skills they acquire at the University. Several members noted that attending a speech class may equip students with basic speaking skills but does it provide the competency to be confident? Members noted providing students with more opportunities for public speaking and written communications could better equip them. While emphasis on written communications is appropriate and is included in course syllabi, presentation skills and confidence are largely gained through practice. Suggestions included having upper-class students deliver focused presentations to students in 100- and 200- level classes. Another suggestion offered was for OSH&E students to be given specific tips on how to conduct effective presentations and perhaps deliver safety talks to other departments. Attendees were asked to submit any additional comments on the program educational objectives and student outcomes in writing. Dr. Yuan affirmed that the OSH&E faculty would evaluate these and other alternatives to enhance student confidence in writing and presentation skills.

A question was raised concerning the level of detail built into the environmental courses. The ABET accredited degree lists environmental as a degree component but there was little clarity (the instructor who teaches the courses was absent) how much practical knowledge students are provided. For example, are students given examples of EPCRA Tier I and II reports, hazardous waste profiles and waste manifests, etc.? Consensus understanding was instruction on environmental reporting is not covered. Dr. Yuan would discuss this point further with other OSH&E faculty.

Mr. Roux sent Dr. Yuan a number of constructive comments from a few members at the end of April 2016.

- a) Consider amending the employer survey with the following:
 - 1) Objectives Part 1 should start with “Does the graduate understand...”
 - 2) Objectives Part 2 should start with “Does the graduate apply...”
 - 3) Objectives Part 3 should start with “Is the graduate an effective communicator? Does the graduate embody a strong sense of ethics?”
 - 4) Objectives Part 4 should start with “Does the graduate seek ongoing professional development...”
- b) Add applied knowledge to existing courses. For example, the current environmental curriculum doesn’t familiarize students with the actual Tier II, SARA Title III, and NRC release reporting forms that will need to fill out in the workplace. Consider adding examples so that these forms aren’t unfamiliar to the graduates.
- c) Establish an ad-hoc side group to identify both topics that are repeated over multiple classes and topics that are not covered in any class. Have the side-group deliver a report to the full curriculum advisory committee.
- d) Does the curriculum need to provide specific “tracks” for students who know what areas they want to work in? For example, an IH track, an environmental track, a PSM track, etc. In other words, would the curriculum do better to graduate an expert in a specific field rather than a generalist? Can this be done within the limits of ABET accreditation?
- e) In the interest of time, the meeting facilitator should thank suggestions from advisory board members and state that it will be considered, then move on.
- f) A scribe would be beneficial to take notes of the meeting. The “minutes” would be emailed to committee members after the curriculum advisory committee meeting. This would be an excellent job for a student.
- g) Perhaps meeting facilitation duties should be rotated among willing attendees. The facilitator will need to be able to prevent extended discussions while not dismissing the content, keep the meeting on track, and be mindful of time constraints. This would allow Dr. Lu to focus on working with the committee instead of facilitating the meeting.
- h) Serve coffee and/or tea.

Further discussions on these comments are planned to be made at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Next, Dr. Yuan presented a number of OSH&E student and faculty achievements, which have been included in the OSH&E Spring 2016 Newsletter that was sent out to all OSH&E graduates,

students, Advisory Committee members, and other colleagues and friends on Apr.22, 2016. The newsletter is also available at <http://goo.gl/OAX6f2>. The achievements include:

- Mr. Brennen Waguespack, ASSE Student Section President Spring 2016, received the 2016 ASSE Foundation Granberry, Fleming, & Ross Scholarship.
- Ms. Emily Carithers received the 2016 ASSE Foundation Greater Baton Rouge Chapter Don Jones Excellence in Safety Scholarship.
- Ms. Kristen Selby, an OSH&E Senior, conducted a research study on Woodworking Shops: A Proposed Framework to Prevent and Control Human Health and Safety Hazards with Dr. Ephraim Massawe in Spring 2016. Kristen presented this study at the annual Southeastern Students' Research, Creative, and Scholar Activities Showcase on April 5, 2016.
- Mr. Keaton Northington, an OSH&E Spring 2016 graduate candidate, was selected for the 2016 OSH&E Outstanding Graduating Senior Award.
- The OSH&E program received a \$1,000 gift from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) for being one of BCSP's Qualified Academic Programs (QAPs).
- Dr. Lu Yuan was approved as New Commission Member of the 2016-2017 ABET Applied Science Accreditation Commission (ASAC) in March 2016.
- Dr. Ephraim Massawe received the Louisiana Gas Utilities Endowed Professorship in September 2015.
- Dr. Ephraim Massawe received the January 2016 Southeastern Faculty Senate President's Scholar Award.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Yuan shared some updates on the upcoming ABET re-accreditation in Fall 2016 with the meeting attendees. The OSH&E program has been invited to participate in the pilot partially virtual visit. The idea is to reduce the expense of a visit by placing online the materials for the visit that the team usually reviews on site. The program places the material online through a cloud or some other secure means. The program evaluator(s) do not then travel to the campus but instead do their portion of the visit remotely, conducting interviews between the program evaluator and the faculty members and students through teleconference format. Only the team chair would come physically to the campus for the site visit.

The total fee for the pilot visit is \$3,540 which includes a base fee of \$3,200, plus \$340 for administrative fees for the additional work. This results in a big saving for the university as typically a visit costs \$6,400 for a team chair and program evaluator and \$9,600 for a team chair and two program evaluators.

The partially virtual visit is scheduled October 9-11, 2016. The ABET Self-Study report was submitted at the end of June 2016. The OSH&E program is currently in a process of getting ready for the visit.

The meeting adjourned at 1 PM. Group photos were taken before lunch by Aramark was served.





Appendix A

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* - Mr. Mauerman retired after Spring 2012.

Appendix B
OSH&E Advisory Committee
Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda
April 22, 2016

<u>Time</u>	<u>Issues</u>	<u>Actions</u>
9:30 - 9:45 am	Welcome & Introduction (By Mr. Lance Roux)	
9:45 - 10:30 am	Old Business	
	1. OSH&E Employer Survey (By Dr. Lu Yuan)	
	2. Celebration of OSH&E Program Achievement (By Dr. Lu Yuan)	
10:30 - 11:45 am	New Business	
	1. ABET Reaccreditation (By all)	
	2. Others	
11:45 - 12:00 pm	Portrait & Group Picture	
12:00 pm	Lunch	