

**UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 14, 2013**

Members Present: Carolyn Elfland, Judy Faubert for Will Tricomi, Karol Gray, Mary Beth Koza, Robert Lowman, Jeff McCracken, Will Tricomi
Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Tal Kafri, David Kaufman, Steve Kenny, Brenda Malone, Christopher Payne, Michael Roller, Bruce Runberg
Guests: Deb Howard

1. 2013 EHS Goals

Mary Beth Koza discussed EHS Goals for 2013. These goals fit the safety management framework (Plan, Do Check, Act) and fall into four categories: intrapreneurship, education, compliance, and growth.

2. Biological Safety Regulatory Changes

Deb Howard discussed the details of three new regulations in the area of biological safety. The *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules* began effective March 5, 2013. The expansion of these rules to include synthetics will expand the reach of these regulations to faculty in areas that have not previously been regulated. The Chemistry Department is one example of a newly impacted department. EHS will be updating the online training program, revising the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) registration form to include synthetic DNA, updating the IBC Charter, and e-mailing researchers to notify them they must register with the IBC if they are constructing synthetic nucleic acid molecules. The *US Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern* were issued on February 22, 2013, with comments due in 60 days. The original dual use policy was issued in March of 2012, this policy sets forth requirements for oversight by institutions. It requires all research with Tier 1 agents to be reviewed, and mitigation plans to be submitted to NIH in some circumstances. This new rules will cause a significant increase in the review and documentation currently being conducted by the Biological Safety Officer and the IBC. The *UNC Chapel Hill Tier 1 Select Agent Suitability Assessment Program* is effective April 3, 2013. It contains pre-access employment requirements for Tier 1 select agents.

3. Emergency Response and Safety Initiatives

Jeff McCracken reported on several emergency communication initiatives, including a renewed push to have students sign up for Rave Guardian and Smart 911, working with Student Government to improve text messaging and promote various safety initiatives. He also reported that a vendor has been selected to design table top and full scale emergency drills. The plan is to schedule the table top by the end of April and the full drill by the end of June. Two locations are being considered and the subject of the drill will likely be related to the selected venue, although it will not be disclosed in advance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.