

UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 4, 2009

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, for Brenda Malone, Carolyn Elfland, Mary Beth Koza, Tony Waldrop, Jeff McCracken, Richard Mann, John Olsen, Chris Payne, Mike Rolleri, Mary Sechriest

Members Absent: Robert Adams, Steve Kenny, Leslie Marson, Jeff McCracken, Bruce Runberg, David Kaufman

Guests: Mary Crabtree, Deb Howard, Cathy Brennan

1. EHS 2009 Goals

Mary Beth Koza present EHS goals for 2009. These cover 4 areas: productivity, growth, compliance, and training. Many productivity improvements in computer systems, including joint databases with Facilities Services, increased online training offerings, and improvements to computerized processes are planned. A growth focus will be nanotechnology safety. The number of principal investigators working with nanotechnology has grown from 1 to 36 in the last year, with many more support employees as well.

2. Biological Safety

Deb Howard reported on 3 biological safety initiatives. (1) The NIH inspection of biosafety labs occurred in February, we had 11 best practices and 1 observation. To correct the observation, we will be implementing new online BSL-2 training by October 2009 and this will be required for all rDNA employees. (2) We have filed for our CDC renewal, now the CDC will schedule an inspection to take place before October 2009. Work is underway to ensure that the labs and EHS itself are in compliance in advance of the inspection. (3) The revised Biological Waste Policy was presented for approval. The revision provides for freezing as an appropriate method to kill transgenic fruit flies (*Drosophila*) in bulk. The Committee approved the revised policy.

3. Minors in Labs Policy

Cathy Brennan presented a new policy on minors in labs for approval. We often have high school students working in labs in the summer, and presently we have no policy regarding supervision or parental permission. The new policy prohibits children under the age of 12 in labs, permits visitors from 12-18 with appropriate supervision, and allows high school students ages 15-18 to perform laboratory work under direct supervision. In conformance with federal requirements, high school students cannot perform work involving radioactive materials, BSL2 or BSL3 materials, or laboratory animals. The Committee expressed concern that children younger than 12 be allowed to tour labs, because it is critical to interest children in science at a young age. The Committee agreed that the policy would be revised to reflect that children under 12 may be permitted to take tours of labs with advance permission of EHS. The Committee approved the revised policy.

4. EHS NanoAction Plan

Cathy Brennan presented the Nano Action Plan. This is a new initiative to provide improved EHS services to scientists working with nano materials. A new policy on nano safety will be brought to the Committee at its fall meeting.

5. Genetic Medicine Compliance

Cathy Brennan presented concerns with safe operations in Genetic Medicine. This is our first open lab building and it is providing difficult to maintain a safe work environment. There have been 35 emergency calls since January 1. Housekeepers have been injured by inappropriate waste disposal, and have had to receive treatment in the Emergency Room that costs \$600 per occurrence. A major issue seems to be the number of bays per lab. Genetic Medicine has 15, where most open labs have 4 to 8. An additional issue is that lab assignments were not made with respect to the type of research being carried out, so some persons working

with biological agents are mixed with others working with hazardous chemical agents. The problems appear to be in 3 areas: behavior, equipment, and location of people. EHS proposed to do a comprehensive safety inspection of the entire building. The Committee supported this recommendation, and asked EHS to meet with the building representatives from the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy to enlist their assistance in advance.

6. UEOHC Clinic Move

The University Employee Occupational Health Clinic has to move out of the ACC to make way for conversion of the first floor to operating rooms and 23 hour beds. It will be relocating to the Health Affairs Bookstore prior to July 1. Presently, the plan is to have the move completed by June 24.

7. EHS Award

Mary Crabtree and Mary Beth Koza announced that the national Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association has recognized Carolyn Elfland with its 2009 Leaders Who Care award, given to senior administrators who support EHS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.