

**UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004**

Members Present: Laurie Charest, Carolyn Elfland, Margaret Jablonski, John Olsen, Christopher Payne, Derek Poarch, Peter Reinhardt, Michael Rolleri, Bruce Runberg, Nancy Suttentfield, Cindy Taylor (UNC Hospitals), Tony Waldrop, Marie Zeldin

Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Lester Kwock, Leslie Strohm

Guests: Brian Boehlecke, Ray Hackney, Ron Howell, Roger Sit

1. Indoor Air Quality Report

Ron Howell, Industrial Hygienist, presented the annual report from the Indoor Air Quality Building Review Committee. This group is composed of members from Facilities Services, Facilities Planning, Environment Health and Safety, and the Medical School Planning Office. Nine buildings are ranked as high priority this year, and funding is in place to replace the HVAC systems in five of the nine. A project request is being completed for another one. One new building is experiencing mold problems, and a question was raised regarding whether the proper processes and procedures are in place to prevent such problems. Facilities Planning recently has issued new design guidelines that include HVAC system requirements that are aimed at preventing mold problems, and design review processes are in place to monitor architects and engineers to insure that they follow the guidelines. When projects bids were over budget in the past, HVAC specifications often were relaxed to get the project in budget, but other mechanisms are now being sought when over-budget situations occur. Brian Boehlecke, M.D., Director of the University Employee Occupational Health Clinic, discussed the services that the UEOHC offers to employees who are concerned about indoor air quality in their workplaces. In cases where employees have pre-existing respiratory disease, such as asthma, the recommendation is to relocate the employee until the IAQ problem can be resolved.

2. Institutional Biosafety Committee

Ray Hackney, Manager of the Industrial Hygiene Section at Environment, Health, and Safety, presented information on the work of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). Dr. John Olsen, a member of the Committee, is the chair. Peter Reinhardt discussed the expanding role of the IBC. The National Academy of Sciences has issued new guidance for IBC's, expanding their scope to include review of research involving potential bioterrorism agents. The National Institutes of Health is in the process of writing implementing regulations. It will be challenging for IBC's to expand their scope to include these new functions.

3. Emergency Notification System

Derek Poarch presented information on a new emergency notification system that can notify as many as 3,000 – 4,000 persons per minute via telephone. Multiple telephone numbers can be listed for one person. There is no up-front cost for the system, but there is a monthly access fee and a charge when the system actually is used. We have no notification mechanism now that allows quick notifications. Several examples of past situations where it would have been helpful to have this capability were given. The Committee agreed that Public Safety should investigate this technology to determine whether it would be feasible to implement on our campus.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.