

UNIVERSITY SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 9, 2010

Members Present: Lorriane Alexander, Carolyn Elfland, Robert Lowman for Barbara Entwisle, Derek Hoar for Brenda Malone, Mary Beth Koza, Jeff McCracken, Richard Mann, John Olsen, Chris Payne, Mike Roller, Will Tricomi, Pat Boon and Mitchell J. Picker..

Members Absent: Robert Adams, David Kaufman, Steve Kenny, Bruce Runberg

Guests: Cathy Brennan, James Hill, Jim Porto

1. Texas Tech Incident

Mary Beth Koza discussed the Texas Tech laboratory explosion incident, which caused serious injury to a doctoral student. The student was using a metal hydrazine perchlorate compound that detonated upon grinding with a mortar and pestle. The student was working on the open bench with no blast shield or personal protective equipment, and had scaled up the material quantity from the standard 100 mg to 10 g without notifying the principal investigator. Texas Tech conducted an internal investigation that found 20 safety violations. Environment, Health, and Safety has assessed UNC's policies and procedures, including EHS oversight through required safety plans for each laboratory and the systematic inspection program, applying to each of these 20 areas. Of the 20, UNC has central oversight processes that would address 18, and EHS will investigate the need for the other two and ways of addressing them if needed.

2. Nanotechnology Safety Policy

Cathy Brennan presented a proposed Nanotechnology Safety Policy. UNC is a leader in nanotechnology research. Currently there is limited information on the safety of nanoparticles and nanomaterials in the university research environment. The policy has been drafted to proactively address safety issues and ensure employees using these materials are aware of potential hazards and risks and the control measures that should be implemented to limit exposure. The Committee approved the new policy.

3. Panic/Duress Alarm Policy

Jeff McCracken presented the proposed Panic/Duress Alarm Policy. This policy covers personal panic alarms, not fire alarms or intrusion alarms. Presently, departments are making individual decisions about the need for some or all employees to carry these alarms, and are having the necessary equipment installed without any prior notice. There is no mechanism for ensuring that the alarm systems chosen are compatible with existing equipment, or that they are maintained at standard intervals. The new policy requires advance approval by the Director of Public Safety if a system is proposed to be installed that is connected to the alarm console in the Public Safety E911 Communications Center and must be responded to by police officers, and requires that Facilities Services Life Safety Electronics Shop install the equipment. An initial threat assessment will be conducted as part of the approval process by the Director of Public Safety. Departments installing such systems will be responsible for the cost of maintaining the panic alarms and the central receiving station software and equipment related to them and must enter into maintenance agreements with the Life Safety Electronics Shop. The Committee approved the new policy.

4. Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jim Porto presented the final Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is the outcome of an effort begun in 2006 and funded by a FEMA grant. The University Safety and Security Committee (USSC) was named the steering committee for this effort. The goal of the mitigation plan is, "To institutionalize a mitigation ethic and to incorporate hazard resilience principles into the decision making processes for (1) designing, building, and maintaining structures; (2) designing, building, and maintaining infrastructure; and (3) developing mitigation practices and policies to reduce the University's vulnerability to natural hazards." Natural hazards were evaluated, wind was identified as the hazard most likely to impact UNC, buildings were assessed with assistance from a structural engineering firm, those that would benefit from increased resilience were identified, and projects to perform this work have been added to the Facilities Condition Assessment Program database. The work will be performed as part of repair and renovation projects for these buildings. The final

step in completing the grant is to have the Goal and the Plan formally adopted by the USSC. The Committee voted unanimously to adopt the Goal and Plan. The adopted Plan makes UNC eligible to apply for grants to complete identified resilience projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.