1. SARS Update

Pete Reinhardt, Director of Environment, Health and Safety, presented an update on SARS. The Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on SARS has been meeting since June, and has addressed a number of issues. A faculty/staff travel policy has been issued, Student Health sent a SARS update to all students before the start of the fall semester, flu shots were made available to all faculty/staff on the State Health Insurance Plan free of charge, and a respirator fit testing policy has been adopted with certain physicians required to complete respirator fit testing as a requirement for UNC Hospitals credentials. The Office of State Personnel has promulgated an administrative leave policy for employees who are in isolation or quarantined, or who Public Health officials recommend excluding from work. Housing and Residential Education conducted an emergency response workshop on managing quarantine or isolation of students.

2. Mold Update

Ron Howell, industrial hygienist and air quality specialist in Environment, Health and Safety presented an update on mold. Mold primarily is caused by water intrusion through roofs, windows, walls, and below grade; HVAC systems; poor humidity control; and leaks. Carolina has experienced mold from all of these causes. We have not had any mold problems of the magnitude of NCCU, but EHS and Facilities Services have responded to 18 smaller mold situations this year. We are fortunate to have qualified experts on campus to respond to mold problems, and in addition to cleaning the mold we focus on rectifying the underlying cause. The State of North Carolina is in the process of adopting regulations governing mold remediation. We have reviewed the draft of these regulations, and are hopeful that our comments will be incorporated into the final version. The present draft does not recognize that some state agencies have in-house expertise in this area, and requires that the state become involved in every mold situation, which could impede our ability to respond as quickly as we do now.

3. Indoor Air Quality Report

Peter Reinhardt updated the committee on select agents. The CDC is in the process of inspecting major research universities, and we can expect to have an inspection from the CDC within the next year. The Department of Agriculture recently issued an audit report on controls over biological, chemical, and radioactive materials at schools with DOA grants, that included recommendations for improvements. Mr. Reinhardt reported that Carolina already has in place all of the items included in these recommendations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.