

CAHNRS Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2014

Present: Daniel Edge-Garza, Rick Rupp, Sheila Brooks, Mike Adams, Mike Costa, Rich Villa, Jonathan Lomber

Next meeting: February 11, 2014, 11:10 - 12, 409 Hulbert Hall

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes from December were approved.

2. Reports

Rich Villa reported from the University Health & Safety Committee. There was a presentation from the Office of Research Assurances. The number of flu cases on campus is expected to rise in the near future, and the current vaccine is effective on the H1N1 virus. There was a report from Russ Schaff that the number of departmental safety committees and meetings of safety committees have dropped over the last six years. Committees have dropped by 21, only 18 committees reported 6 meetings compared to 51 before, and 5 committees reported only 1 meeting compared to 11 before. There were 183 meetings reported over all. Rich reported that there is an effort to get a Citizens Academy for the police department organized. Also from the police department a reminder that Steve Hansen still does "Active Shooter" presentations about what to do when there is an incident on campus.

Sheila Brooks reported that efforts were underway to restart the Hulbert Hall Safety Committee.

3. Discussion on recommendations from the CAHNRS Safety Committee to Jim Moyer, Associate Dean of CAHNRS.

We had a wide-ranging and active discussion over a number of proposals. The discussion was centered primarily on lab safety as it was the most glaring example of a lack of safety training. The Committee also discussed farms, shops, workplaces, and shared space. The committee has noted holes in safety training for Principle Investigators (PIs) on their responsibilities for safety in their research programs including training and documentation of training for employees and students. Some of the complicating factors that were discussed included the level of implementation (lab, department, college, or university), resources, and who provides the oversight. Several proposals were made, modified and discussed.

The committee recommends the following:

1. We recommend there be a safety section in CAHNRS New Faculty Orientation where it would be made clear what faculty are responsible for in safety, training, and documentation for their research programs. At least some of the training could be provided by EH&S in the orientation sessions. Our hopes are that from the beginning they are aware of the safety requirements and will carry that the rest of their careers here in CAHNRS.
2. Resources need be provided to develop and deliver online safety training for employees. This would be similar to the sexual harassment training that we have all had. This allows the PI responsible for the safety training more flexibility in delivering the training to (and documenting the training of) the

employee. It also allows the employee or student to easily follow what training is relevant to him or her. Though the level of training is up to the PI, it is strongly urged that the PI have some method of measuring competence before the employee is allowed to perform tasks for which he or she is trained. Where training is needed for a shared space, not under the direct supervision of any one PI, (autoclaves, fields, greenhouses, etc.) the department responsible for these areas should coordinate and provide the responsible PIs with record of the employee training upon its completion. The training would be most useful if developed for each department with their specific needs; however, if the training covers interdepartmental shared space (e.g. autoclaves), there should be at a minimum, a consensus between departments about the level of training the employee will receive. The documentation needs to be brought back to the PI, and stored in the employee's file for future reference.

3. A safety "checkbox" should be included in the annual review of faculty and Department Chairs. The box could be checked if the Faculty/Chair/Department has completed the annual safety assessment, and show that their employees/students have documented safety training. In the past there has not been documentation of safety compliance to this degree at the department level.
4. We recommend a tenure track faculty member chair the CAHNRS Safety Committee on a rotating departmental basis. This is an opportunity for education for each department, and larger support for each departmental safety committee.

The time allotted for the meeting was up before a consensus was reached.

4. February agenda

Further discussion of safety recommendations to Assoc. Dean Moyer will continue at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Rupp

Edited by Daniel Edge-Garza