UNIVERSITY-WIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2008 1:00-2:30 pm – UW Club, Lower Level Conference Room

In Attendance
Leslie Anderson (1) 
Ron Fouty (2) 
Paul Zuchowski (3) 
Chuck Treser (4) 
Peter Rackers (5) 
Barbara Lovsseth (4) 
Ken Jones (7) 
Stephen Costanti (8) 
Michael McMillan (8) 
Jack Herndon (9) 
David Zuckerman10) 
Kristian Haapa-aho (11) 
Larry Sommers (SEIU 925) 
Carol Garing (Crtv Com)

In Attendance
Elizabeth Dahl (Ex-O, AGO) 
Elena Williams (Ex-O, RM) 
David Emery, Guest Speaker 
David Leonard (EH&S) 
Michael Merrill (EH&S)

Not Present
Connie Bartlett (1) 
Pete Federici (2) 
Diane Hanks (3) 
Bob Ennes (4) 
Ed Farnham (4) 
Megan Amen (5) 
Jan Whittington (5) 
Susan Sargent (5) 
Tracy Harvey (6) 
Sherri Huber (6) 
Deborah Conley Staerk (7) 
Heidi Dlubac (9) 
Margery Cooper (10) 
Ray Harten (11) 
John Freudenthal (UAW 4121) 
Paul Bentson (WFSE 1488) 
Bill Armstrong (Ex-O, FS) 
Steve Charvat (UWEM)

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Minutes
3. Presentation: David Emery, IBC Chair, “Oversight of BioHazardous Research at the UW”
4. Group Reports – Union Reports
5. EH&S Report – L&I inspections
6. New Business: New Director, EH&S
7. Adjournment

Recorded: by Michael Merrill
1. Meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Fouty.

2. There being a quorum, October Minutes was approved as written.

4. Presentation: “Oversight of BioHazardous Research at the UW” – David Emery, Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
Dr. Emery explained that a biohazard oversight program has been in place at the UW for some time (he has been on the IBC Committee for 12 years) but this program will be much more “on the radar screen” in the near future.

The program covers:
- Infectious agents:
  - Bacteria (E. coli -> Tuberculosis)
  - Viruses (AAV -> HIV)
  - Prions (CWD)
  - Blood (Bloodborne Pathogens)
- Recombinant DNA (rDNA)
  - Transfer to or from infectious agents
  - Transgenic animals
  - Transgenic plants
  - Clinical gene therapy trials
- Select Agents (high security)
- Laboratory settings
- Live animals
- Clinical and field tests

$1 Billion is invested each year at the UW to sponsor research and 250 applications are submitted per year to work with biohazards. Oversight is managed using a team approach by 3 primary organizations:
- EH&S’ Research & Biological Safety Office (RBSO)
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Investigators

**EH&S / OH&S:**
- Staffed by biosafety professionals
- Responsible for compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations and policies
- Key functions:
  - Facility design and approval authority
  - Review research protocols and identify hazards
  - Provide training/clearances and set OH requirements
  - Site assessments/inspections
  - Develop laboratory health & safety manuals/policies
  - Biosafety cabinet (BSC) requirements/standards and certification
  - Support IBC

**Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC):**
- Composed of faculty, staff, and community members
Committee meetings are open to the public – public trust!

Key functions:
  - Review and recommend institutional policies for research involving rDNA and biological agents.
  - Review individual research proposals for compliance with Federal, State, local and institutional regulations:
    - Biosafety containment levels BSL1, 2, 3)
    - Adequacy of facilities, SOPs, training
  - Approve or disapprove specific proposals.
  - Monitor and assure compliance with NIH Guidelines.

Federal Authority for IBC:
- Institutions receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) must assure that ALL research is carried out in compliance with the NIH Guidelines for Research involving rDNA (and infectious agents).
- Assurance of compliance is accomplished through the IBC in collaboration with the Institutional Health & Safety Departments.

The Review Process:
- Principal Investigator (PI) submits application
  - Research Project Hazard Assessment (RPHA) form
- Full evaluation by EH&S staff:
  - Biosafety Officers et al., Research and Biological Safety Office (RBSO)
- Significant projects also reviewed directly by the IBC:
  - Highly pathogenic organisms (BSL-3)
  - Select agents (bioterrorism)
  - Clinical gene transfer
  - Environmental release
  - NEW: Research involving rDNA and medium risk pathogenic organisms (BSL-2 or above)
- Following concurrence between RBSO and IBC, investigator is notified of approval (Biological Use Authorization letter).

Biosafety Standards are defined and codified:
- Institution (Administrative Policy, EH&S/OHS/IBC)
- NIH Guidelines
- CDC/NIH BMBL (Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories)
- US Department of Agriculture
- Select Agent Rule, 42 CFR Part 73
- WISHA/WAC Occupational Health & Safety Standards
- WAC 296-820 Bloodborne Pathogen Standard
- Seattle Municipal Code Infectious Waste Management

General Considerations:
- Organism (virulence, pathogenicity, transmission)
- rDNA (toxic, oncogenic, environment, virulence)
- Containment (biological, physical, practices)

Biosafety Risk Groups:
• RG 1: Agents are not associated with disease in healthy adult humans
• RG 2: Agents are associated with:
  o Human diseases which are rarely serious
  o Preventative or therapeutic interventions are often available.
• RG 3: Agents are associated with:
  o Serious or lethal human diseases
  o Preventative or therapeutic interventions may be available
  o (High individual risk but low community risk)
• RG 4: Not allowed at this University
  o Agents are likely to cause serious or lethal human diseases
  o Preventative or therapeutic interventions are not usually available
  o (High individual risk and high community risk)

Biosafety Containment Levels:
• Physical (ex. NIH Appendix G)
  o Practices
  o Equipment/facilities
• Biological (ex. NIH Appendix I)
  o Survival
  o Transmission

Facility Design Basics:
• BSL 1: Door, sink, signage required
• BSL2: BSL 1 plus
  o Biosafety cabinet for aerosols (recirculate filtered air)
  o Cleanable surfaces
  o Remote access to autoclave
• BSL3: BSL 1 and BSL 2 plus
  o Gowning entry
  o Biosafety cabinet for all open procedures (exhaust filtered air)
  o Negative room pressure (exhaust filtered air)
  o In suite autoclave
• BSL4: BSL 1 and BSL 2 and BSL 3 plus
  o Positive pressure suits
  o Air-tight construction
  o “Slab-to-slab” concrete walls
  o Additional HVAC requirements
  o Not allowed at this University

Big Changes are Coming - Rollout early next year of revised program
• IBC Program was reviewed 10/7/08
• In this review, site visitors identified 2 major areas reflecting lack of compliance
  1. Self-identification sections of NIH Guidelines need to be followed by Principal Investigators
  2. Reviewers need to consider a wider set of applications
• IBC needs to respond to both
• Response to #2 will require much more time from voluntary IBC members
  o Currently, members meet about 3 times a year
Monthly meetings will likely be required for IBC members to review research proposals in greater detail

The increased time commitment will likely produce recruitment and retention issues for IBC members

Conclusion:
- BioHazardous research is very common at the UW.
- Safe and effective oversight of this research is key to the continued success of the UW research enterprise.
- Oversight of this research is achieved through a partnership between EH&S, RBSO and the IBC!

Questions:
Q: What are the credentials of IBC members?
A: Staffed by peers – there are no directives from NIH

Q: Will lack of compliance affect research dollars from coming in?
A: No

Q: What is the timeline?
A: Probably will not be one stipulated in the report. (Sooner rather than later is the usual regulator response.)

4. Group Reports – Union Reports

Group 1, Administration/Other Academic Programs: Leslie Anderson reported receiving OARS reports for the first time from Friday Harbor (Office of Research). EH&S Joseph Kwok presented supervisor requirements for accident investigation.

Group 2, Finance and Facilities: Ron Fouty reported having a fire extinguisher presentation at their last meeting. Recent focus has been on facilities fall protection.

Group 3, Student Affairs: Paul Zuchowski reported a HUB walk-through by L&I to inspect completed asbestos signage (a total of 800 signs were posted in the HUB). The job must have been adequate since signs are now being applied in other buildings.

Group 4, Health Sciences/Hospitals: Barbara Lovseth reported a presentation on Evacuation Warden training. Supervisor safety training was discussed again. OARS reports were given.

Group 5, Architecture & Urban Planning: Peter Rackers reported no safety events. Committee members attended student meeting groups. The safety plan for the photo lab has been completed and attention is now focused on a safety checklist for the wood/metal shop. Evacuation Warden training is being addressed.

Group 6, Arts & Sciences: Larry Sommers reported approving a poster design (which will require updates). They are waiting for a letter from the Dean regarding compliance with Health & Safety Plans.
Group 7, UW Bothell: Ken Jones reported two minor incidents. At a Cascadia Community College construction project a crane carried a load over the top of a crowd of students. Complaints were made about this. This morning a “No U-Turn” sign was posted on campus to prevent parents from making the illegal turn after dropping off their students.

Group 8, UW Tacoma: Michael McMillan reported only 1 OARS report. Their new emergency plan is almost done. He asked whether the revised UW policy for AEDs has been released (not yet). A couple of fire alarms accidentally went off and people were concerned how to know if they were real or not. It was suggested that a public address system be used. The best advice is to get out first and then make a judgment call.

Group 9, Engineering: Jack Herndon said they had no OARS reports to review. Heidi Dlubac is leaving the College. First though, before leaving for Portland, she will temporarily replace Tracy Erbeck during her absence.

Group 10, Forest Resources: David Zuckerman reported one OARS report from Pack Forest. They are still working on Evacuation Warden training.

Group 11, Ocean & Fishery Science: Kristian Haapa-apo reported having the first fire drill since he’s been working there (about 4 years). The drill went smoothly – lots of research space and classrooms were going on during the drill. Evacuation Wardens are set for one building. Another one should be ready next month.

WFSE 1488: Paul Bentson not present.

UAW 4121: John Freudenthal not present.

SEIU 925: Larry Sommers reported no safety issues at the moment.

5. EH&S Report – L&I Inspections:
   - Dave Leonard reported a heart attack fatality on the research vessel “Thompson.” We were reminded to report immediately to EH&S of a hospitalization or death. L&I must be notified within 8 hours of the event.
   - L&I “red-tagged” an elevator in UW-2, Bothell. This was not a violation; there was some concern about the hydraulic oil.
   - The indoor air quality remediation project continues in the brick building in Tacoma.

6. New Business:
   Barbara McPhee will serve as Acting EH&S Director when Karen VanDusen retires. The search for a new Director has screened applicants down to 10. The search committee is hoping to bring in 3-4 finalists to interview in December and to finalize the search after the first of the year.

7. Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ron Fouty.