Hello

We wanted to make sure we shared with you some proposed changes to the Research Integrated Safety Committee (RISC) charge. The attachments show the endorsements of the changes by the chair of the RISC, Dr. Harman, and there is also a copy of the changes. In general these changes bring us into what I would call ‘best practices” and similar to other UC campuses. I wanted to share these with you in case you would like to make sure you share with other faculty or other committees of the faculty. If there are any questions, please let us know (Sheila knows the most about all of this and is the best person to address questions). We would like to make sure we know if the Academic Senate has any comments or concerns before we move this proposal forward.

Thank you

Gerry
Research Integrated Safety Committee (RISC) Charge Revisions

Revision Summary
Late in fall of 2020, UCR EH&S requested an assessment of our laboratory safety program efforts from the UC Center for Laboratory Safety. The director, Dr. Craig Merlic, provided a general review of the UCR lab safety program and presented recommendations to EH&S, RISC, VCPB&A and VCRED. As part of the recommendations, we have revised the RISC Charter.

The Research Integrated Safety Committee (RISC) serves as the campus’s laboratory safety committee. The committee advises, consults and collaborates with Environmental Health and Safety to develop programs and campus standards for the safe conduct of teaching and research at UCR. The updates to the charter focus on RISC serving in a more active and direct role to improve the laboratory safety culture at UCR. The revision also enables RISC to develop chemical specific programs based on hazard classes (i.e. chemicals listed as toxic or highly toxic, flammables, air reactive, or water reactive, corrosive, irritants, carcinogen, reproductive toxins, fall hazards, pressure extremes, noise, etc.) that are not specifically addressed by other committees (i.e. Institutional Biosafety Committee, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Institutional Review Board, and Radiation Safety Committee). All matters regarding laboratory safety that are not under the purview of these other standing committees will now be overseen by the RISC. This includes, but is not limited to, limiting and/or restricting access to laboratories when unsafe laboratory practices are deemed immediately dangerous to life and health. Lastly, the revision includes the addition of a representative from the Academic Senate to serve as a member of the committee.

Attached is a copy of the RISC charter with proposed changes highlighted.

Examples of Other Campus Lab Safety Committees
- UC Davis Chemical and Laboratory Safety Committee - https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/ehs/research/chemical-laboratory-safety-committee
- UCLA Chemical and Physical Safety Committee - https://rsawa.research.ucla.edu/cpsc/
- University of Iowa Laboratory Safety Committee - https://ehs.research.uiowa.edu/lab-safety/laboratory-safety-committee
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Laboratory and Chemical Safety Committee - https://ehs.unc.edu/committees/lcsc/
- Texas Tech University Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee - https://www.depts.ttu.edu/ehs/academicsafety/icc/ilsc.php

W. Hill Harman
Associate Professor of Chemistry
RISC Chair
Purpose:
Advise, consult and collaborate with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) in developing programs and campus standards for the safe conduct of teaching and research at UCR.

The Research Integrated Safety Committee (RISC) is primarily charged with promoting a culture of safety on campus through reviewing, advising, and making recommendations on campus risks associated with safe acquisition, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, physical hazards found in research and teaching laboratories, other technical areas in locations owned or managed by UCR. The RISC can also recommend implementation of policies and procedures which meet or exceed regulatory requirements. The committee’s members represent a diversity of disciplines to support the campus mission of research, teaching and outreach.

The RISC will advise and collaborate with other standing campus committees, including but not limited to: the Radiation Safety Committee; the Institutional Biosafety Committee; the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee; and the Institutional Review Board. In recognition of the specialized jurisdictions of these other committees, the RISC aims to target overall safety and to develop its own focus on classes of hazards that are not specifically addressed by other committees (i.e., chemicals, physical hazards). All matters regarding laboratory safety that are not under the purview of these other standing committees are directly overseen by the RISC.

Scope:
The RISC will assess and support improvements to the UCR Research Safety Program by serving as a resource in the development, implementation, and maintenance of a comprehensive laboratory safety program including:

- Communications with the Research Community;
- Training Programs and Resources;
- Laboratory Hazard Assessments;
- Serve to create, update and maintain standardization of procedures, protocols, and policies regarding laboratory best practices.

  - Review and revise as appropriate the University Chemical Hygiene Plan, at least annually;
  - Evaluate the use of highly hazardous chemicals and review and prescribe special requirements or Standard Operating Procedures regarding safe use;
  - Evaluate the laboratory safety aspects of teaching labs, recommend and develop educational, programmatic, or functional changes to promote safe practices;
  - Discuss laboratory safety related changes in oversight, such as regulatory changes and other extra-institutional issues or incidents, and recommend and develop policy and programmatic changes to promote compliance and safe practices; and
  - Accident/Incident review and Lessons Learned; EH&S will investigate accidents/incidents and RISC will review reported outcomes and infractions of general laboratory safety including improper use of hazardous materials brought to its attention. EH&S has the authority to stop
any laboratory activity which it deems an imminent hazard. A laboratory may be closed due to unsafe conditions based on recommendations provided by RISC. Recommendations must be approved by majority vote. A laboratory may also be closed by the department chair. Once a laboratory has been closed, the RISC must vote on whether to recommend reopening the laboratory. If a regular meeting is not scheduled in a reasonable timeframe a special meeting will be convened.

- Explore and evaluate Special Program Areas (e.g., high hazard operational areas, visitor/volunteers, visiting scholars conducting research, field research, nanomaterials, scientific diving, reproductive health and third party use of campus facilities), and recommend and review policies and programming to promote safe practices;

- Define, outline, and keep current the duties of the Laboratory Safety Officers (LSO) within each of the academic units that store or utilize hazardous materials and/or are subject to physical hazards in the laboratory/technical area;

- Review employee concerns regarding safety and health hazards related to laboratory and chemical safety;

- Review the RISC’s Charter at least every three years.

Composition

Voting Members

**Eleven (11) Members of the Faculty:**

- Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE) – 2 Representatives
- College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) – 2 Representative
- College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) – 3 Representatives
- School of Medicine (SOM) – 1 Representatives (TBD)
- Radiation Safety Committee Chair or designee
- Institutional Biosafety Committee Chair (TBD)
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Chair (TBD)

**Dean’s Office representatives:**

- Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering- 1 Representative
- College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences - 1 Representative
- College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences – 1 Representative
- School of Medicine-1

**Office of Research Integrity – 1 Representative**

**Academic Senate – 1 Representative (TBD)**

Ex-Officio Voting Members

**Ex-officio**

- EH&S Director
- EH&S Research Safety Programs Manager

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

- Biological Safety Officer
- Radiation Safety Officer
Chemical Hygiene Officer

**Labor Union representing graduate student/XXXXX**

Ad Hoc campus members may be invited attended

**Appointments:**
2 years, renewable
Dean's designate faculty and department representatives

**Meetings:**
The Committee meets a minimum of once a quarter. Fifty percent of the voting members is necessary to establish a meeting quorum, and a quorum must be maintained for each vote to occur. In order for each vote to be approved, it must receive approval by majority of voting members present at the meeting. The executive sponsors are provided a briefing annually and invited to review the progress and direction of research safety.