

Research Policy Committee

Agenda

May 11, 2018

2:30-4:00 pm

Fleming 4025

Members present: Kate Eaton, Marisa Conte, Peter Lenk, JaKe Carlson

Guests: Karl Jepsen, Jonah Lee (laboratory and research safety committee)

- I. Karl and Jonah are here to discuss challenges to lab safety and possible solutions
- II. Newly-formed Laboratory and Research Safety committee:
 - a. 15 Safety units across campus currently forming: including all departments and units
 - b. Plan to identify challenges and work together with labs and PIs to find solutions.
 - c. Example of issues: laboratory design is not conducive to compliance: there should be a barrier between desks and work spaces. Open laboratory design is a problem. Need to establish infrastructure.
 - d. Goal is to ensure compliance without being punitive.
 - e. First step is to get the administration on board:
 - i. On faculty meeting agendas
 - ii. Give feedback for upper administration to work on, establish infrastructure
 - iii. Improvements will require financial commitment from deans
 - f. Propose to have safety coordinators in laboratories(usually the lab manager):
 - i. Assist and train students and workers
 - ii. Communicate with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)
 - iii. Safety coordinator is a lab member not a safety professional
 - iv. Incentives needed to get volunteers
- III. Risk/benefit discussion:
 - a. Difficult to decide what is a reasonable requirement
 - b. Design changes help compliance: barriers between desks and lab space, break areas close to the lab.
 - c. Challenges include differences in lab research, new trainees, inconsistent follow-through, building design.
- IV. Current work of the committee includes:
 - a. Building visibility for the campaign
 - b. Creating infrastructure
 - c. Plan to find solutions rather than impose rules.
 - d. Create dialog between labs/PIs and EHS
 - e. Identify building and lab design deficiencies: what needs to change and why.
 - f. Need better training model than PEERRS
 - g. LSRC representatives can attend faculty meetings to discuss issues and get suggestions.
- V. Ended at 4:00 pm
- VI. Approval of minutes will be via email
- VII. Kate will (hopefully) present her academic structure powerpoint in fall semester.
- VIII. Happy summer.