

Date: February 7, 2011
To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members
From: Howard Apsan
Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
Barnard College, December 14, 2010

Opening

The December NYCER meeting was held at Barnard College on December 14, 2010. The meeting was hosted by Dan Davis, Associate Director of Facilities at Barnard College. Sheryce Woolery of CUNY Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

College Updates

The EPA conducted a multi-day, multi-media audit at Montefiore Medical Center. The audit addressed issues such as proper storage of old, abandoned and inherently waste-like chemicals; proper labeling of containers in the main accumulation areas; and disposal of abandoned chemicals.

The City University of New York (CUNY) reported on several issues. The College of Staten Island (CSI) was inspected by the EPA on the day of the NYCER meeting. Additionally, the New York City Comptroller's Office audited the FDNY Lab Inspection Unit and found that CSI had expired lab permits. CUNY has subsequently taken the initiative to review all labs to ensure that lab permits are up-to-date at all of its campuses.

Global Student Unrest

Brian Cabezas showed video clips and photos of the global student unrest resulting from recent tuition increases, and opened the floor for discussion. The presentation showed demonstrations in London, Italy, Chile, and San Francisco. With the global economic downturn, it is likely that tuition increases will continue. Therefore, it is important for college administrators to remain attentive to these issues and minimize the potential impact of student unrest.

Presentation

Sal Tranchina, Senior Director of Environmental Health and Safety, The Mount Sinai Medical Center and **Rich Walka, Senior Vice President, Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers**, presented on "**Surviving a Regulatory Agency Inspection.**" The presentation focused on how campuses should prepare for an inspection by a regulatory agency. Sal encouraged campuses to conduct peer reviews of lab areas, post all necessary information in visible areas, and include this information in training materials. Campuses were also encouraged to keep storage and lab areas clean and to dispose of unused and unwanted chemicals properly. We thank Sal and Rich for an informative and stimulating presentation.

Updates in Brief

CUNY has developed a Laboratory Safety Manual based on the Cornell Laboratory Safety Manual that was distributed through the SEHSA listserv. The CUNY Manual includes New York City regulations that were not included in the Cornell document. The CUNY Manual is available for download at <http://www.cuny.edu/ehs>. Please be aware that this manual is specific for CUNY and should be customized for any other institution before use.

Upcoming NYCER 2011 meetings are scheduled for: March 16; June 14; September 13; and December 13. Those able to host a meeting should contact Sheryce Woolery at (212) 794-5630 or sheryce.woolery@mail.cuny.edu. Additionally, anyone wishing to suggest a specific presentation topic or presenter is encouraged to contact Sheryce as well.

The FDNY has initiated a 2011 Fire Code Revision Project Advisory Committee and invited several NYCER members to participate in the project. The 2011 Fire Code Revision Project will consider adoption of changes to the 2003 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC).

Joseph Arcoleo of the Fashion Institute of Technology attended the recent SEHSA conference in Lake Placid, New York and provided a summary of the conference for those who were unable to attend. Mr. Arcoleo highlighted the training workshops on reactive chemicals and arc-flash, and also emphasized the importance of developing a relationship with responding agencies before an emergency happens.

Upcoming Meetings

The next NYCER meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 16, 2011, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, in Manhattan. **Adam Steinman, Senior Vice President, College and University Market Leader, Woodard & Curran**, will be presenting on "**Meeting Greenhouse Gas Reductions by Implementing a Comprehensive Energy Management Strategy.**"

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.