VICE CHANCELLORS FOR RESEARCH
VICE CHANCELLORS FOR ADMINISTRATION

Please distribute to your campus Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Chairs

Dear Colleagues:

As indicated in Provost Dorr’s letter of August 3, the Office of Risk Services is leading the coordination of systemwide resources to assist campuses in the development and implementation of programs and processes to meet the settlement agreement requirements. In the weeks prior to, and since, the execution of the agreement, campus Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S) Directors have been working to develop implementation plans, leveraging systemwide resources to ease the burden on individual campuses and departments. It should be noted that while there are a few specific new requirements that apply only to the departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry; nearly all of the requirements are already in existing Cal/OSHA regulations.

Even with the work being done by your campus EH&S Department; Department chairs, faculty and lab personnel are vital to successfully implement the settlement agreement requirements. The most significant of these are:

1) the completion of lab safety training that meets the settlement requirements,
2) approval and training on standard operating procedures (SOPs) specific to chemicals noted in the agreement, and
3) review of hazards and, selection of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Under the settlement agreement, each campus must implement settlement agreement requirements within a very strict timeline and each campus EH&S Director must provide signed certification as to the implementation and that the campus is in substantial compliance of the agreement provisions to the Los Angeles District Attorney within 120 days of the agreement and every six months thereafter. Additionally, the settlement agreement has language that if a known material failure to substantially comply with the agreement is identified and curative action is not initiated within 30 days, the Regents could be found in breach of the agreement and each offending campus be fined up to $500,000 for each breach.

Your campus EH&S Director will be working directly with those departments affected by the settlement agreement and will be providing additionally detail on specific requirements and timelines. As implementation plans are quite extensive, the attachments to this letter contain details as to what is required
and the specific action taken to date. In order to provide up to date information regarding UC’s progress in meeting the settlement agreement requirements, a UC Lab Safety SharePoint site has been created at http://www.ucop.edu/riskmgmt/documents/uc-lab-safety-sharepoint.pdf. On this site you will find information related to the settlement agreement requirements and links to upcoming webinars related to lab safety requirements and responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Taylor
Executive Vice President—
Chief Financial Officer

Steven Beckwith
Vice President
Research and Graduate Studies

Attachments

cc: Academic Council Chair Anderson
    Academic Council Vice Chair Powell
    Senior Vice President Vaceca
    Vice President Mara
    Vice President and General Counsel Robinson
    Associate Vice President Van Ness
    Chief Risk Officer Crickette
    EHS Director Young
    Executive Director Winnacker
    Interim Chief of Staff Greenspan