Memo: January 3, 2014

To: CUNY Environmental Health and Safety Officer Council

From: Howard Apsan

Re: Environmental Health and Safety Officer Council Meeting Minutes
Bronx Zoo, December 12, 2013

Opening
The Environmental Health and Safety Officer Council meeting was held at the Bronx Zoo on December 12, 2013 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Brenda Burbach, Environmental Compliance Specialist at the Wildlife Conservation Society of the Bronx Zoo, welcomed the Council. Heather Yang of the Office of Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation.

Updates

Flu Season
The NYC DOHMH reported that influenza activity is increasing in NYC. Influenza-like-illness visits are at 2.5% of all weekly visits, which is above the national baseline. All EHS Officers are encouraged to get vaccinated and check flu preparedness posters to make sure campuses are minimizing influenza risk. In addition, CUNY has received 500 doses of the flu vaccine from the DOHMH designated for uninsured students.

Meningitis
There have been eight confirmed Meningitis B cases at Princeton University. With the FDA’s approval, Princeton has started to offer its students the Bexsero vaccine, which is not licensed for use in the United States. There were also four cases at UC Santa Barbara, one case at Monmouth University, and one case at Kingsborough Community College.

Winter Preparedness
The first snowstorm of the season occurred on December 10. Plowable levels of snow fell throughout the Northeast, resulting in flight delays and suburban schools closing. A potential snow event is expected on December 14. The 2013 CUNY snow memo detailing procedures for closures in case of snow emergencies has been issued. All EHS Officers are encouraged to review the memo and make updates to campus emergency operations plans.

Audits
The EPA was at NYU Medical Center on December 5 in preparation for an extensive audit later this month. CUNY has completed three fall audits. An unscheduled audit remains to be conducted before the end of the year. The 2014 spring audit schedule is as follows: Medgar Evers College in February, Hostos Community College in March, and Hunter College in April.

Fire Code
There was a City Council hearing on November 21, addressing the revised FDNY fire code. CUNY will continue to work with the FDNY to finalize and implement the revised code.
Super Bowl
The 2014 Super Bowl will be held at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, but many of the associated events will be held in New York City. Increased security is expected during the week leading up to the Super Bowl, and Broadway will be known as “Super Bowl Boulevard.” Please follow the OEM Partners in Preparedness website (http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/businesses/partnersinprep.shtml) for street closures and any events that may impact CUNY.

Health and Safety Committee
Aldo Orlando, Environmental Health and Safety Director at Brooklyn College, informed the Council that the Committee is in the process of reviewing mold guidelines. The Committee hopes to compile and distribute its report by early 2014.

Environmental Compliance Committee
Mohamed Bangura, Environmental Health and Safety Director at Medgar Evers College, reported that the Committee is looking for volunteers for next year. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact Mohamed at mbangura@mec.cuny.edu.

Lab Safety Committee
The revised Lab Safety Manual has been distributed. Comments and questions should be addressed to Richard Belgrave at rbelgrave@ccny.cuny.edu.

SEHSA Fall Conference
Mel Rodriguez, Environmental Health and Safety Director at Queensborough Community College, reported that the 2014 Fall conference will be held in Lake Placid and the 2015 Spring conference will be held in Syracuse. Mel will update the Council on the Spring 2014 Conference as details become available.

Presentation
Jacob Trevino, Scientific Cleanroom Director, The City University of New York, gave a presentation titled “An Introduction to the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center.” The Council would like to thank Jacob for an interesting and informative presentation.

Upcoming Meetings
The next EHSO Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, in the President’s Conference Room 2, inside the Rosenthal Library.

Michael Spath, Environmental Compliance Manager, The City University of New York Office of Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management, will give a presentation titled “Petroleum Bulk Storage Compliance Issues.”

Adjournment
The Council meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.