I) New UC System-Wide Safety Policies

With the assistance of Jeff Feerer, COE safety coordinator, we began looking at the new policies (attached) being pushed down from UCOP regarding SOPs, lab training, and personal protective equipment. Some of the original hard work in implementing these policies has already been done by our and other UC Chemistry Departments. Some key points gleaned thus far:

1) If there is ever one drop of solvent in a lab then non-flammable lab coats will be required.
2) Lab coats will be mandatory in all labs, along with safety goggles. Sandals and shorts will be banned. All skin must be covered to the neck.
3) EH&S is assigning new safety inspectors to each college. Ours will be Veronica Villeneauva, who starts in April and will have a desk in Kemper. She will begin the huge job of individually inspecting labs and issuing written reports on each. We should embrace the change, meet with her, and get started on the inspections.
4) UC has arrived at 67 classes of chemical present in labs, so there are now 67 SOPs governing their usage. We reviewed several SOPS from Parikh’s lab using the new class definitions. Most of the SOP is boilerplate supplied by UC; only a small portion need to be customized to a particular lab.
5) The chemical inventory each lab already completes will be the baseline data fed into the new SOP software to produce the base SOPs needed by each lab, which can then be tailored to the specific lab.
6) The new SOPs will form the basis for safety training in each lab.
7) In addition to chemical SOPs, SOPs for different procedures will be necessary. This includes undergraduate labs, where a possible strategy is to produce one SOP per lab exercise.
8) Lab training will have three components.
   a. The basic EH&S chemical lab safety class, which will now be offered on-line.
   b. Safety training for each lab, for which the PI is responsible.
   c. Training in the SOPs for each lab, which again the PI is responsible for
9) For undergraduate teaching labs the three steps above will be:
   a. All students will take the on-line EH&S course
   b. Lab (or site) specific training will be conducted
c. Training will be done on the specific SOP for each lab exercise
   Note: students will be required to buy lab coats

II) A team of six people led by John Meyer presented plans for a possible
reconfiguration of the SE corner for Bainer Hall for greater pedestrian and bike traffic
safety. Our committee was most impressed.

III) To continue to keep up with UC system-wide developments in lab safety regulations
it was proposed that our safety committee meet more frequently than once/quarter.