QUESTIONS TO PONDER IN YOUR COLLEGE

1. What can you do to reduce the chance of an accident occurring in your college?

2. What can you do to minimize your risk of being held liable if one occurs despite your best efforts?

3. Do you have a robust safety culture in your college?

4. Is safety considered an important part of research and is it communicated frequently to members of the college?

5. Are there any consequences for failure to adhere to safety rules?
QUESTIONS YOUR LAB/SHOP OPERATORS SHOULD PONDER

1. Do you know the major hazards in your lab/shop?
2. Have you and your lab members assessed and discussed risks associated with these hazards and the controls needed to protect from them? (For example, have you considered the “what if” scenarios?)
3. Do lab members understand that the introduction of new chemicals/biological agent/equipment or significant changes in established procedures require reassessment? Has it been clarified to them what changes would require your approval?
4. Do you have written standard operating procedures (SOPs) for working with the hazards in your lab that clearly address safety?
QUESTIONS YOUR LAB/SHOP OPERATORS SHOULD PONDER

5. Have lab/shop members heard you state that safety is a high priority? Do they believe you?

6. Are lab/shop members encouraged to report safety concerns? Have you ever rewarded or praised someone in your lab/shop for identifying safety concerns?

7. Do you enforce safety rules? Have you ever taken disciplinary action against someone for not working safely?

8. Do you have a system in place to ensure that all new lab/shop members receive training specific to the hazards, procedures and rules for your lab/shop before they work on their own? Is this training documented?

9. Do all of your lab/shop members have access to lab/shop PPE (lab coats, aprons, safety glasses/goggles, gloves, etc.,) that is required in your lab/shop?

Note: Adapted from University of Maryland—Available on www.ehs.iastate.edu > Laboratory Safety