Campus Recreation Services invited Tom Griffiths, Director of Aquatics and Safety Officer for Athletics at Penn State University and founder of Aquatic Safety Research Group, to conduct a risk audit for the aquatic department. Overall, Tom was impressed with the work our staff has done with maintaining a safe aquatic environment.

The cleanliness of our facility was at the top of the positive list. The amount of training time for our staff at the beginning of the semester and each month shows our desire to promote safe water activities.

There were also things that need to be worked on in the aquatics department. One significant safety hazard is the lack of a railing around the ladder leading to the pump pit in the mechanical room. The lighting was also an issue, with many bulbs out the lighting was not adequate for recreational swimming. The rules signs at both the indoor and outdoor pools need to be updated to deal with changing rules and enforcement. A few staffing questions were brought to our attention regarding and supervision.

The following is a list of comments/suggestions made by Mr. Griffiths for a safer aquatic environment.

- Install railing around the pump pit ladder
- Review and update pool rules signs
- No swimming under bulkheads needs to be addressed
- Lighting- too dim
- Poseidon Drowning System®- computer monitors pool for victim(s)
- Emergency button on pool deck- dials direct to police when there is an emergency
- “No Diving” signs need to be made more obvious
- Lightning policy- should we be open during a electrical storm
- Lifeguard coverage during activities
- Lifeguards attentiveness to duties
- Give lifeguards more to do (so they will not only be sitting while on duty)
- Have staff sign off that they have read and understood what they have learned through training or read in their manual.
- Provide ‘cheat sheets” for emergency procedures by phones and in fanny packs.