

Office of Environmental
Health and Safety

Office of the Director

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
PUBLIC SAFETY

March 17, 2006

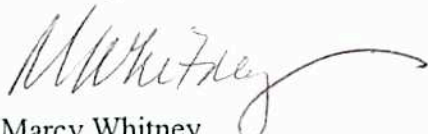
The Sunshine Project
PO Box 41987
Austin, TX 78704

Dear Edward Hammond:

Enclosed please find the minutes of the IBC at the University of Alabama since May 1, 2003. Please note that the first minutes are dated October, 2003. Our spring IBC meeting was held in April of that year and was outside the timeline for this request. However, if you would also like to request those minutes, I can send them to you as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marcy Whitney
Lab Safety Officer, BSO



Hal Barrett
Director, BSO

***Institutional Biological Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes***

February 26, 2006 at EHS

Present: Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Catherine Walker, Hal Barrett, Steve Woski, Marcy Whitney, Matt Green

This meeting was held at 1:30 pm.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Chair.

- I. BSP Update provided by Marcy Whitney
Level 2 inspections almost completed, no major problems to report, no committee action required
- IV. BSC certification
Marcy reported that we have increased the number of BSCs on campus. We have also had people ask about certifying the laminar flow hoods. We will likely have to bid this service this year, due to the numbers increase. Quotes have been requested but not received yet.
- II. Arun Gupta's BSL 2 application
Application is included for committee's review. Work has started, as approved by EHS. Minor discussion about application. No DNA cloning work in area, only sequencing.
- III. Beth Todd – pending BSL 2
Marcy discussed what she currently knows regarding Bovine Serum research about to begin in mechanical engineering – joint replacement. BS will be used as a lubricating fluid. Must be classified as a 2 and meet the level 2 requirements. Proposed to be housed in Hardaway Annex. Area may have problems with sink, drains, flooring, etc. EHS is to inspect this area this week.

No other business was brought to the committee. All members are receiving emails and minutes. Floor opened for members comments or problems. None mentioned.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Harriett E. Smith-Somerville 2/27/06
Chair Date

***Institutional Biological Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes***

October 24, 2005 at EHS

Present: Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Catherine Walker, Hal Barrett, Steve Woski, Marcy Whitney, Don Pugh, Matt Green

This meeting was held at 10:30 am.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Chair.

The committee members went around the table and introduced themselves and their affiliation to the committee. Harriett Smith-Somerville reviewed the purpose of the committee and the explained the meeting schedule for the year.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

Amy Litt (opium poppies) left campus. Security on her research was a concern last year, but it will not be an issue now.

New Business

Annual verifications were sent to all PIs and are due back to EHS by October 31.

Further Business

Harriett Smith-Somerville explained the voting by mail or fax. Catherine Walker asked if engineering was starting up any biological research, after the name/program change for Chem E. Marcy Whitney said that they had found that slightly more challenging than they expected and had not made much expansion into that area as of yet, but it is coming.

Matt Green updated his contact information for the committee.

Hal Barrett announced that the Bloodborne Pathogen Program review was currently going on.

Don Pugh said there was some federal money available for a WMD exercise and said that UA had been suggested as the site for the exercise. Hal Barrett said that we had not been contacted as of yet. The committee discussed this and agreed that they would want to be aware of activities of this type on campus.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. 10:45 am

Harriett E. Smith-Somerville
Chair

10/26/05
Date

***Institutional Biological Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes***

March 21, 2005 at 254 Rose Administration

Present: Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Catherine Walker, Hal Barrett, Mark Dedmon, Ginger Scott, Steve Woski, Marcy Whitney, Don Pugh, Al Winters, Marianne Woods, Tonya Klein, Phil Bishop, Mike Spearing, Keith McDowell

This meeting was held at 1:30 pm.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Chair.

I. Old Business

Approval of October 2004 IBSC minutes

No old applications for discussion

Dr. Woski had a question about the lab numbers in the minutes. There was a typo – there should be 88 BSL 1 labs. Minutes approved with correction.

Dr. Smith-Somerville discussed the email ballots for approval of existing Ramonell protocol (submitted for modifications) and for new protocol for Amy Litt. These were approved and letters were sent. It is noted that Dr. Litt will be leaving in May and this protocol will terminate.

II. New Business

No new applications for discussion

No new business to discuss.

III. Training

Complete IBSC training

Dr. Smith-Somerville turned the meeting over to Marcy Whitney to discuss training. Committee completed training on a power-point presentation prior to meeting. Everyone signed for training completion. This training was based on presentations NIH provides. This training is the first step in the program being created for this committee. Over the summer, Marcy will be expanding on these fundamentals. Dr. Woods suggested a document to verify training. Marcy said that was coming with the additional training.

IV. Program Review

rDNA applications

BSL classifications

BSL 2 laboratory inspections

BSC inspection schedule

Autoclave inspection update

rDNA applications are approved and in effect at this time. There will be a process for reviewing these annually. Dr. Woods asked if there was a database that would be kept up to date with the information

about these protocols. Marcy indicated that there was now, and that it would be utilized for future reviews. Every five years, the whole program will get reviewed, and everything will need to be examined.

All lab classifications were reviewed in the 2004 5-year review. Some classifications changed, so an updated listing of labs was provided to committee.

BSL 2 lab inspections are all complete, except for Martha Powell and Al Winters. Marcy explained that the CEMS system had thrown her off schedule a bit, and that she would be getting to the Biology Building soon. Dr. Woods asked if there were any problems. Marcy said that there were only minor issues (signage needed to be updated, bottle needed to be relabeled with full name, etc). She discussed these with the PIs and they received a report from her.

Biological Safety Cabinets will be inspected at the end of April/first of May. Fil-Cert will be contacted after spring break to schedule this service.

Autoclaves are being inspected currently. One in each of the following buildings – Nott, Bevill, and Biology – are being brought up to code. (Shelby's is covered under warranty this year.) This will mean that one autoclave in each building will be available for the treatment of medical waste, and the rest will be available for sterilization.

Other Business

There was a brief discussion regarding the exempt status of Biosafety work and the necessity of meetings to approve work. Exempt work can be approved by mail vote, but non-exempt work requires a full meeting.

Dr. Keith McDowell introduced himself to the committee.

There being no further discussion, meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Harriette E. Smith-Somerville

Chair

3/24/08

Date

***Institutional Biological Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes***

October 6, 2004 at EHS

Present: Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Catherine Walker, Hal Barrett, Mark Dedmon, Ginger Scott, Steve Woski, Bob Moore, Marcy Whitney, Don Pugh, Al Winters, Marianne Woods, Tonya Klein

This meeting was held at 2:00 pm.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Chair.

The chair convened the meeting, and turned the floor to Hal Barrett. Hal explained that there had been some miscommunication between EHS and the President's Office. EHS selects the membership for the IBSC, since the committee has to conform to strict NIH guidelines. However, the President's Office sent out membership notices based on last year's list. Therefore we now have 20 members plus 2 EHS staff members on the committee – all of last year's committee, plus this year's new appointments. He also mentioned that we had added several liaison positions to the committee, in an effort to give us a well-rounded viewpoint. Bob Moore pointed out that the Faculty Senate Representative should be a voting member, not merely a liaison. Harriett Smith-Somerville confirmed that he was a member and had voting rights, that he was not considered a liaison for our committee.

Harriett then mentioned that the committee was now listed on the University website for committee information. Catherine Walker raised the question of posting the minutes on the website. It was agreed that this would not be done for this committee.

Old Business

Harriett turned the meeting over to Marcy Whitney, who discussed the following:

- There were no outstanding items to be voted on by the committee.
- Currently there are 22 listed BSL 2 labs on campus, and 88 listed BSL 2 labs. This is under review, however, as part of the new forms submission. We expect this number to change somewhat. This number reflects the actual number of rooms where an agent might be present, not the number of faculty or research projects involving that agent.
- The Sunshine Project released a report of its investigation into IBCs in the US. It's a 52 page document, and can be found as www.sunshine-project.org. While the University of Alabama is not one of the institutions that are prominently listed, we did receive a transparency grade between 50-59%, which is listed as a failing grade. This created some discussion about what the transparency grade was based on, and what we failed on. Hal Barrett confirmed that we did submit minutes when requested. Marcy Whitney indicated that it was her interpretation, based on the body of the report, that the failing grade is a reflection of the detail and information included in the minutes, but not a reflection of the type of research reviewed. The report clearly states that it is not a reflection of the safety of the institution or how well it protects the employees, students, or environment.
- In March, President Bush enacted the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity. This board, while still being developed, charges the IBCs with authority and responsibility for dual use research in biological weapons. Once the details of this committee and its authority are in place, this committee will have a much expanded role on campus.

New Business

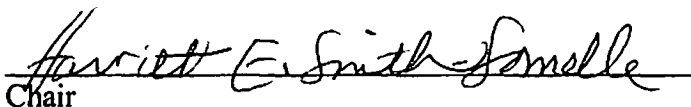
Harriett turned the meeting over to Marcy Whitney to discuss coming items:

- Leslie Rissler – A graduate student in W. Va. recently died from hantavirus while working with the same species Leslie Rissler intends to collect. She uses the species in both a field class and her research. This issue has been discussed and her class collection protocol has been amended and approved by the IACUC. She will have to amend her research collection protocol as well. Once that is done, she will need to submit a Registration for BSL-2 because she intends to harvest some organs in her lab. This will require BSL-3 containment facilities. Dr. Winter's questioned her ability to provide BSL-3 containment. Due to the nature of the project, the vortex hood in her lab was deemed acceptable for this work. Everyone who works with the animals will be trained and fit tested for respirators, and her lab will be considered a secure area. Dr. Winter's raised the concern that she needs additional training for containment at this level. EHS will provide her with additional training.
- Amy Litt – Marcy informed the committee that Dr. Litt (new Biology faculty) has expressed an interest in growing opium poppies to study flowering processes. It will not be a plant that she starts with, but she hopes to have 10-12 plants to study. Marcy said that she wanted the committee to be aware of this situation. So far, EHS has found no regulations prohibiting the growth of the poppies themselves, but they do have some calls in to some agencies. The seeds can be purchased through a variety of domestic suppliers. Dr. Litt had indicated that she might put them in the greenhouse. This is some cause for concern. Dr. Woods raised the issue of security for these plants, and of the need to limit visibility to this area. It was agreed that before work could begin, some serious security concerns would need to be addressed. Marcy said that Dr. Litt had been told that we would have to deal with some issues when she was ready to work with these plants, but at the moment there is no timeline for this research to begin.
- New forms are being submitted for 2004-2005. The BSL-2 research and the rDNA work will need to be reviewed at our next meeting.
- Training programs are being developed for both the committee and for the program. The committee's program will focus on the regulations and the legal aspect of committee membership. The program's training will be a General Safety Training for anyone in the biological safety program. This will not eliminate the need for the PI to do training for their area, but will provide a background framework for everyone. The committee members are encouraged to review this training as well.

Further Business

Harriett mentioned that part of the NIH requirements were that CVs be submitted on all members of the committee. Due to the mixup in the committee structure, she wanted to check that had been addressed. Hal Barrett indicated that CVs had been sent and that NIH had sent notification of compliance with that action.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. 2:52 pm


Chair

10/8/04
Date

***Institutional Biological Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes***

April 12, 2004 at EHS

Present: Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Ginger Scott, Mark Dedmon, Don Pugh, Catherine Walker, Sandy Gordon, Hal Barrett, and Marcy Whitney

This meeting was held at 9:00 am.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Chair.

The chair shared with the committee that the committee was now on the University webpage. It is listed on the Committee Webpage, under 'Committees Appointed By Other Means'. There is a place on the website to post the minutes of the meetings.

I. Sunshine Project

Hal Barrett told the committee that the Sunshine Project, an international organization, had recently requested information about Select Agents at UA, as well as copies of our minutes, per NIH guidelines. We were able to comply with this request with a minimum of fuss; however, this did cause some discussion in many academic circles with regard to security.

II. BMBL

The NIH/CDC publication *Biosafety in the Microbiological and Biochemical Laboratory*, currently in its 4th edition, is being revised this year. The meeting is scheduled for today. The major changes and areas for review involve security requirements, specifically security for biological hazards that are not Select Agents.

III. Biological Safety Cabinet Inspections

These have been scheduled for May 10-11 with Fil-Cert. This is the same company that has handled these certifications in the past few years. The date is being set to accommodate Capstone's move into their new building. The BSC in Capstone will have to be taken apart to be moved into the new Capstone. The Bakker representative will be coming to handle this during the move.

IV. Inspection Information

FAA/DOT inspections have begun at various campuses. Anyone who has shipped anything and signed the shipping papers is subject to inspection. We are suggesting, until we can get the training program up and running and the website complete, that shipping go through us, even if it is non-hazardous.

V. New Business

Don Pugh indicated that sometime before August the hospital has to have a full scale exercise, assuming a biological event. Ron Hamphill is scheduling that. There may be some tabletop exercises before the end of the year, but nothing is definite yet.

Hal Barrett informed the committee that UA's ability to respond to a terrorist event is good. EHS has recently received equipment to allow us to test for nerve agents, some specific toxins, and some biological agents. We will expand our inventory as time goes on. However, we have the ability to respond to a campus emergency.

The next meeting will be in the fall semester, probably in October. Meeting was adjourned.

Harriett E. Smith-Somerville
Chair

4/13/04
Date

***Institutional Biological Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes***

October 6, 2003 at EHS

Present: Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Dr. Guy Caldwell, Dr. Stephen Woski, Dr. Al Winters, Ginger Scott, Mark Dedmon, Don Pugh, Catherine Walker, Dr. Robert Moore, Sandy Gordon, Hal Barrett, and Marcy Whitney

This meeting was held at 3:00pm.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Harriett Smith-Somerville, Chair.

- I. a. Slate of officers for 2003-2004 was introduced.
b. Marcy Whitney reported that 40% of the biological safety surveys have been completed for campus. These are being done in connection with the chemical hygiene baseline surveys in progress all over campus.
- II. a. Certification of Biological Safety Cabinets completed in May
b. Annual verification of biohazardous agents is in progress, the deadline is Oct. 31, 2003. Roughly 1/3 of these have been submitted at this time. The committee discussed the previous policy that labs that have not submitted the verification on time will be suspended from doing research with biological agents until such time as the paperwork is complete. This was upheld. Dr. Smith-Somerville asked Marcy Whitney to send a reminder to the faculty involved on Oct. 15 that included this warning.
- III. a. Dr. Rissler- no agents in research, but collects and sacrifices animals. Some of the colonies of animals can potentially carry a strain of Hantavirus, but they are primarily in the western US. Dr. Winters suggested adding a statement about the possibility of a strain of Hantavirus in some of these animals. If she should begin work on viral agents in these animals, or collect animals from the western US, she will have to change her registration.
Dr. Ramonell – non pathogenic strain of *E.coli*
b. Fungal plant pathogen discussed. BSL2 work approved, 12 yes, 0 no
c. rDNA application reviewed – Dr. Smith-Somerville suggested approval, contingent upon submission of appropriate protocol, and listing of the strain of *E.coli* involved. rDNA approved, 12 yes, 0 no
d. Dr. Ramonell has applied for a permit for the powdery mildew plant pathogen from USDA – not yet issued.
e. Dr. Rissler proposes collecting some species that are covered under the Endangered Species Act. She is in the process of applying for a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency.

On another note: Don Pugh stated that he serves on the Bioterrorism committee for the Local Emergency Planning Agency. This committee has been referred to several times for doing such a good job keeping up with agents on campus, and should be commended.

The next meeting will be in the early spring semester. Meeting was adjourned.


Chair

10/9/03
Date