

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/22/2026

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Time: 1:00 PM

Present

John (Jed) Weldon (Chair, note taker)
Elana Ehrlich (member)
Kishana Taylor (member)
Robert McGown (external member)
Melissa Morland (external member)
Frank Hubbard Butler (EHS representative)

Absent

Anne Estes (member; on leave)
Erin Harberts (member)
Jennifer Ippolito (OSPR representative)

- Two Infectious Materials protocols were evaluated:
 - Kishana Taylor
 - Comments on Dr. Taylor's protocol
 - A minor spelling error was noted under Safety Precautions.
 - A request to include protective eyewear under Safety Precautions was made.
 - The protocol was approved with modifications by all attending members, with one abstention (Taylor).
 - Carmen Falcone
 - Comments on Dr. Falcone's protocol
 - A request to modify and improve the Safety Precautions statement was made.
 - The protocol was unanimously approved by the committee, pending modifications.
- Frank Hubbard Butler had several updates from EHS to present to the committee
 - Dr. Will Ryan has separated from TU
 - Forensic Chemistry will be using human DNA in SC 3323
 - The recombinant DNA handbook has been updated and is currently under final review
 - Mold remediation is currently underway in parts of the science complex
 - Tax-free ethanol is available through departments as a disinfectant

The use of protective eyewear while using biosafety cabinets was also discussed by the committee. Prior practice has been that eyewear is not needed while using the biosafety cabinets because of the plexiglass shield between the user and the cabinet surface. Current guidelines, however, are to use eye

protection while operating the biosafety cabinet. This should be noted in future protocol safety precautions statements.

Standardization of the language use in safety precautions for submitted protocols was suggested by Melissa Morland and discussed. The committee plans to review and approve general safety precautions language.