

Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/16/2026

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Time: 1:00 PM

In attendance

John (Jed) Weldon (Chair, note taker)
Kishana Taylor (member)
Robert McCown (external member)
Melissa Morland (external member)
Frank Hubbard Butler (EHS representative)
Anne Estes (member)
Erin Harberts (member)

Absent

Elana Ehrlich (member)
Jennifer Ippolito (OSPR representative)

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- Minutes from the 1/22/2026 meeting were approved by 6 attendees, with one abstention, pending the correction of names.
 - Remove hyphen from Hubbard Butler
 - Remove extra “e” from Morland
 - Send corrected minutes to Mr. Hubbard Butler in PDF format for posting
 - A standardized safety precautions statement was approved unanimously, pending updates to sharps container language updated to reflect actual practice.
 - Sharps boxes are placed directly into biohazard boxes (no autoclave required).
 - Dr. Kishana Taylor’s mosquito surveillance was discussed by the committee
 - Preliminary approval granted
 - Explicit statement to be added that co-infected mosquito pools will not be cultured due to the potential for West Nile virus.
 - Explicit statement for student training in mosquito identification to avoid carriers of West Nile virus
 - Will be formally approved at next meeting after modifying original IBC protocol
 - Dr. Anne Estes’ sponge microbiome project was discussed by the committee
 - Preliminary approval granted
 - Provide statement on the modification of culture conditions designed to limit infectious agent growth.
 - Will be formally approved at next meeting after modifying original IBC protocol

- Dr. Elana Ehrlich's rDNA & infectious materials registration updates were reviewed by the committee and unanimously approved pending minor modifications
 - room number corrections: 5130/B, 5123, 5123A, 5125
 - confirmation that personnel training is required (item 15).
- EHS Updates:
 - Current location of biohazard boxes for pickup is not acceptable. Discussed potential options. Dr. Weldon will consult with Hannah Berry to identify optimal site. Mr. Hubbard Butler suggested speaking with Paul Harless at EHS for pickup coordination. The area near the current liquid nitrogen storage was identified as a potential staging area.
 - Potential for EpiPen availability in vivarium. Frank is still researching prescription/HIPAA requirements. Prescription would likely be assigned to Jorge if approved.
 - IBC guidebook for recombinant DNA use has been updated. Dr. Weldon to review and send notes to Mr. Hubbard Butler.
 - The potential for UV light use as a disinfectant in the biosafety cabinets will require warning signage and procedure updates for all rooms affected.
 - Emergency contact label format for sensitive equipment is currently being finalized
 - ABSL-2 vivarium lab-specific and animal-specific SOPs still outstanding from investigators.
- Future meeting planned for August (date TBD)
 - Protocol approvals for Dr. Taylor, Estes, Hemm, & Snyder