

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD5721S
Date of Senate Approval 04/29/2021

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**FWDC 11: Proposal to Establish the Institutional Biosafety Committee as
a New Standing Committee
Faculty Handbook Section [10.4.1.4](#)**

Effective Date: Immediately

Summary: This document establishes the Institutional Biosafety Committee as a Standing Committee and outlines duties and membership

Rationale:

As a condition for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding of recombinant DNA research, institutions shall ensure that such research conducted at or sponsored by the institution, irrespective of the source of funding, shall comply with *the [NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules](#)* (the Guidelines). The Guidelines require an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) consisting of a minimum of five members that collectively have experience and expertise in recombinant DNA technology and the capability to assess the safety of recombinant DNA research and to identify any potential risk to public health or the environment. At least two of the committee members shall not be affiliated with the institution (apart from their membership on the Institutional Biosafety Committee) and who represent the interest of the surrounding community with respect to health and protection of the environment. To this end, the UNCA IBC reviews, approves, and oversees projects in accordance with the responsibilities set forth in the Guidelines and in the institutional policy written here. The IBC's responsibilities need not be restricted to recombinant DNA and synthetic nucleic acid research.

Add to Section 10.4.1.4 as follows:

Institutional Biosafety Committee 10.4.40

Purpose:

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) is charged with assessing the safety of recombinant DNA research and to identify any potential risk to public health or the environment. Further, the committee will assure the safe acquisition, use and disposal of all biohazardous materials at the University. The IBC, in conjunction with the Biological Safety ~~Officer~~ **Program Manager**, regulates biological materials used in research, teaching and service operations at the University.

UNC Asheville acknowledges its responsibility to provide a program for the handling, storage and disposal of biohazardous materials, to provide emergency response for incidents involving biohazardous materials, and to educate the UNC Asheville community about the safe use of biohazardous materials in research, teaching, and service activities.

Duties:

1. Ensuring UNC Asheville compliance with:
 - a. All federal, state and local regulations;
 - b. Procedures and principles relating to the prevention and/or control of infectious diseases, including strict adherence to the most recent version of the CDC/NIH publication [*Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* \(BMBL\)](#); and,
 - c. The procurement, storage, use and disposal of biohazardous materials used in UNCA research teaching, and service facilities.
2. Certifying investigators and instructors, their laboratories and/or their practices for work are conducted at appropriate biological safety levels.
3. Overseeing the development and maintenance of written biohazard safety/infectious disease control plans that minimize exposures for all affected personnel using proper engineering controls and work practices; to make the plan available to the institutional community; and to recommend updates to the plan, as necessary. Additionally, overseeing the development and implementation of educational programs related to infectious diseases and biohazard safety.
4. Following the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) protocol notification, procedure for individuals exposed to recombinant DNA, synthetic nucleic acids, or regulated pathogens.](#)

5. Identifying tasks that carry the risk for transmission and the occupational groups involved.
6. Reviewing instances of potentially infectious disease outbreaks related to research, teaching and service activities that the committee oversees.
7. Recommending to the UNC Asheville Environmental Health and Safety Committee (EHSC) policies and procedures to protect the health and safety of all faculty, staff, students, and visitors at UNC Asheville.

Membership:

Five (5) voting members, approved by the Provost in consultation with FWDC. Faculty members serve staggered three-year terms which may be renewed, while the community representatives serve a one-year terms which may be renewed.

- Voting Members

- At least ~~one~~ two faculty members who ~~has~~ have expertise in proper handling of biohazardous materials;
- ~~○ At least one faculty member who has expertise in research biohazardous materials;~~
- One faculty member at large (appointed by FWDC); and
- ~~○ One member unaffiliated with the university and the research facility and is to provide representation for the general community interests in the proper handling of biohazardous materials who has expertise in biohazardous materials (Community Representative).~~
- Two members unaffiliated with the university and the research facility to provide representation for the general community (Community Representatives).

- Non-voting Members

- Representative from the Environmental Health and Safety Office, ex officio.
- Liaison from Academic Affairs, ex officio and non-voting, as needed, to facilitate the work of the IBC, ex officio.

Recommendations to: The IBC directs matters related to the use of biohazardous materials at UNC Asheville to the Chief Research Officer.

Reports to: the VCAA