

**The University of Western Ontario
University Biosafety Committee Meeting
February 7, 2008
10am-noon, SLB 330**

Minutes

Present: G. Kidder (Chair), G. Thorn, S. Damjanovski, G. Qubty, N. Huner, G. Dekaban, T. Rugar, T. Dzialoszynski, S. Dhaubhadel, G. Kent, K. Brown, J. Stanley, J. Tucker, R. Noseworthy, S. Grindrod (Guest), S. Warnock (Guest)

Regrets: L. Hertel, A. Watson, S. Yee, A. Margaritis, V. Smith, U Trivedi, G. Ryder

1. Introductions (G. Kidder)

Self Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes, October 4, 2007(G. Kidder)

Clerical correction in Attendance

Motion: G. Thorn G. Dekaban

All in favour

October 4, 2007 minutes approved.

3. Business Arising (G. Kidder)

3.1 Biotron Update (N. Huner)

The second draft of the SOPs have been completed and will be reviewed by Physical Plant. They will be set for Committee review at the June meeting.

The main building will be operational in May, 2008. The biomes will require another year of testing and will be ready for experimentation in the summer of 2009.

The Grand Opening has been set for October 23, 2008.

3.2 Biohazard Subcommittee Update (G. Kidder)

Medical surveillance programs for Vaccinia and Lenti-viral vectors have recently been put into place. There is a concern that there is a lack of compliance with the Biohazardous Agents Registry forms. These forms expire every three years.

3.3 Microbial Toxins – Draft Guidelines (G. Kidder)

G. Kidder gave a synopsis of the feedback given regarding the Health Canada Microbial Toxins guidelines. Many felt that it would be difficult to enforce some of the regulations outlined in the guidelines. G. Kidder will pass these comments on to Health Canada

3.4 Awareness Communication to Researchers

There have been concerns that researchers who are using Biohazards are not completing the Biohazardous Agents Registry form. Communications are currently going out to inform new researchers about the form and to remind current researchers to update their forms when they expire.

4. New Business (G. Kidder)

4.1 Medical Surveillance (S. Grindrod)

S. Grindrod updated the committee on the status of the medical surveillance program. Dr Sydney Siu will be covering Workplace Health the Medical Surveillance program until a replacement is found. Dr Siu will work closely with the committee as well as the Biohazardous Subcommittee.

A timeline for replacement was estimated to be late Spring 2008.

4.2 Annual Report for 2007

The Annual Report for 2007 was distributed. There were no comments or concerns.

4.3 New Substance Notification

The removal of the exemption for Research/Development from the New Substance Notification policy could impact many researchers. The draft was discussed at the last Biohazardous Subcommittee. Any feedback and comments can be sent to G. Kidder who will forward it on to Health Canada before the end of February.

4.4 Biosafety Requirements for Imaging

The new procedures for the Imaging suits at Robarts and the transport of animals between institutions were distributed by J. Stanley and R. Noseworthy.

Action: J. Stanley will send the procedure as a Word document to the committee for further review. Comments or corrections can be forwarded to J. Stanley in the next week. This document will be circulated to Lawson and VRL.

4.5 Biosecurity

4.5.1 Biosecurity Subcommittee Terms of Reference

A second member position on the Biosafety Committee is to be added to the Biosecurity Subcommittee.

Action: G. Kidder will send out a notice to the committee for a volunteer for this position.

4.5.2 Biosecurity Plan

A draft Biosecurity plan was distributed to the committee. The plan outlines the process under which the Biosecurity Committee would become involved in the evaluation of Biohazardous Agents Registry forms.

4.6 Update on Biosafety Program (J. Stanley)

4.6.1 Graphs:

J. Stanley reviewed graphs posted to the committee website.

Biosafety Training Attendees 1999-2007

Refresher training and PI training will be available on WebCT in the future.

Autoclave Inventory

Researchers are encouraged to contact OHS if autoclave is going to be moved.

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Shipments by Type

Most shipments were infectious substances.

Biohazard Forms Approved in 2007 by Containment Level

100 Biohazardous Agents Registry forms were evaluated by the Biohazardous Subcommittee in 2007.

4.7 Level 3 update

The decontamination and shutdown has been delayed in order upgrade the Autoclave. Hope to complete this by spring to early summer so the facility can be up and running in August.

Two options:

1. Replace with a small used autoclave. Cost \$50,000
2. Continue using the current autoclave until money can be raised to purchase a new one. Cost \$130,000 for autoclave plus construction

5. Other Business

5.1 Biosafety Manual

J. Stanley reviewed the changes that have been made to the Biosafety manual. No comments or concerns.

6. Next Meeting

June 5, 2008

7. Adjournment

Motion: G. Dekaban T. Damjanovski
Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.