



The Biosafety Committee (BSC) is advisory to the Vice-President Finance and Operations.

A. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To review and consider for approval all proposed uses of pathogenic microorganisms, toxins, infectious proteins, recombinant DNA, human materials and other biohazardous materials.
2. To consult on and review regulatory issues relating to biosafety and associated facilities.
3. To carry out other functions of a Biosafety Committee as required by [The Public Health Agency of Canada](#) or other regulatory agencies. .

B. MEMBERSHIP

1. Faculty Members (voting)
 - a. Two members from the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology
 - b. One member from the Department of Biology
 - c. One member from the Division of Medical Sciences
 - d. One member from the School of Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education
 - e. At least one member from another user Department such that the total number of Faculty Members on the Committee is at least six.
2. Ex officio Members
 - a. The Occupational Health, Safety & Environment Consultant designated as Biosafety Officer (non-voting)
 - b. The Director, Occupational Health, Safety & Environment, or designate (non-voting)
 - c. The Associate Vice-President, Research Operations (voting)
3. Other Members
 - a. Two non-affiliated members who represent the interest of the surrounding community with respect to health and protection of the environment (voting).
 - b. The Chair may appoint consultants to the Committee, as required (non-voting).

The members listed above must collectively have the following areas of expertise: recombinant nucleic acid molecule technology; plant, plant pathogen or plant pest containment principles; animal containment principles and access to *ad hoc* consultants as deemed necessary based on applications.

C. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

1. Faculty members will be appointed by the Vice-President Finance and Operations after consultation with the Chair of the Committee and the appropriate department Chair and Dean.

D. TERMS OF OFFICE

1. Faculty members shall be appointed for staggered three-year terms beginning October 1 of each year.
2. Faculty members whose terms are completed are eligible for re-appointment.

E. OFFICERS

1. The Committee shall have a Chair and administrative support. The Chair shall be assigned to a faculty member on a rotational basis.
2. The Chair shall serve for a 2 year term.
3. The Department of Occupational Health, Safety & Environment shall provide administrative support.

F. PROCEDURES

1. The Committee, through the Chair, shall report at least annually, to the Vice-President Finance and Operations and the Vice-President Research, on the work of the Committee during the previous year.
 2. Meetings will be held twice a year in the spring and the fall.
 3. A quorum will be at least half of the members of the Biosafety Committee and must include 3 Faculty members and a representative from Occupational Health, Safety and Environment.
 4. The allocation of membership is based on current number of biosafety registrations and will be reviewed every 2 years.
 5. The Biosafety Committee conflict of interest policy precludes discussion by the committee member when it pertains to their own research projects or affiliated projects. The committee member(s) involved in the project must exit the meeting room while discussion occurs.
 6. The Committee will not approve any registrations unless all proposed work is conducted in accordance with UVic Policies and Procedures as well as all Federal, Provincial, Local and Granting Agency requirements.
 7. At the semi-annual Committee meetings, following deliberation, the Committee will reach consensus on approval and/or recommendation for changes and/or rejection of the applications. If consensus cannot be reached, the decision is made by a two-thirds majority vote with dissenting votes noted in the minutes.
 8. Between Committee meetings, the applications will be circulated for review via email by the OHSE Biosafety Officer (BSO) who will establish a set period for review and comments to be submitted by the committee members. Following the review period, OHSE BSO will collate the comments, contact the applicant for their response to any requested changes and then convey the revisions to the Committee with a request for their approval. The Committee will reach consensus on approval and/or recommendation for changes and/or rejection of the applications, based on response from at least half the voting members. If
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consensus cannot be reached, the decision is made by a two-thirds majority vote with dissenting votes noted in the minutes.

9. Any applications approved during the interim period between meetings will be summarized for information at the next committee meeting.
10. The Committee will review and amend the terms of reference as required at the spring meeting.

G. APPEAL PROCESS

1. Applicants for a biosafety registration or protocol may appeal a decision of the Biosafety Committee if the applicant believes there has been a procedural error.
2. The appeal must be filed in writing to the Chair of the Biosafety Committee outlining the perceived process error within 30 days of receipt of notification of decision from the Biosafety Committee. The Chair of the Biosafety Committee will respond to the applicant in writing with a decision within 30 days of receipt of the appeal.
3. If the applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Chair of the Biosafety Committee, the applicant will indicate this in writing to the Vice President Finance and Operations (VPFO) within 30 days of receiving the Chair's decision. The VPFO will consider the submission and respond to the applicant with a decision within 30 days. The VPFO's decision shall be final.
4. Decisions of the Biosafety Committee relating to operational, regulatory, and health and safety considerations of the application or protocol may not be appealed and are final, subject to any orders or directives from PHAC or other regulatory agency.

