

Syracuse University Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 21, 2026

Meeting Time: 12:10 PM - 1:20 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Members Present: Tim Coughlin, Biosafety Officer
Zhen Ma, BMCE Faculty
Thuy Dao, Biology Lab Manager
Karen Nardella, Director of Student Health Services
Anthony Bianchi, Non-affiliated
Roy Welch, Chair, Biology Faculty

Members Absent: Dave Larsen, Public Health Faculty
Rob Doyle, Chemistry Faculty
Tom Brody, Non-affiliated
Tracy Crompt, Director of ORIP (Ex-Officio)

Guest(s) Joe Hernon, AVP, Emergency & Environmental Risk Services
Tiffany Nelson, Staff, Emergency & Environmental Risk Services
Fabrizio Sabba, Civil and Environmental Engineering Faculty

Quorum Status

- ☒ Quorum achieved (minimum 6 members required)
☐ Quorum not achieved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the meeting were:

- ☐ Approved as submitted ☐ Approved with amendments ☒ Deferred

Amendments/Comments: None

OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES

Not applicable.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Review of New Applications

1. The Committee reviewed Dr. Fabrizio Sabba's new application, 26-008.

Summary

The goal of the research is to study wastewater treatment and understand microbial processes involved in nutrient removal. Microorganisms will be isolated from environmental wastewater samples and maintained in 500 mL to 20 L bioreactors. Samples will be extracted and analysis will be performed on DNA, such as DNA sequencing and qPCR and microscopy. E. coli will be used to express genes involved in nutrient removal, fermentation, etc. as standards for analysis.

NIH Guidelines Applicability

The experiments outlined fall under Section III-F-8, Appendix C-II Escherichia coli K-12 Host-Vector Systems are exempt from these NIH Guidelines with the exceptions listed in Appendix C-II-A.

Assigned Biosafety Level

All research will be conducted in a dedicated BSL2 laboratory using biosafety level 2 practices.

Discussion

A motion was made to approve the application with modifications listed below.

Vote

- ☐ Approved as submitted
- ☒ Approved with modifications (list below)
- ☐ Tabled pending additional information
- ☐ Not Approved

- Engage with the Civil and Environmental Engineering department for future plans of the BSL2 space. EHSS will confirm if any shared/core spaces are present in the area.
- The BSL2 facility will be restricted by swipe access and required Biosafety Training for entry.
- All entry doors will be labeled with the universal biohazard symbol.
- SOPs must be written for decontamination, waste management, and transportation of samples.
- Bioreactors must be placed in a fume hood within a secondary containment tray to help ensure containment of bioreactor exhaust and contain accidental water spills/leaks.
- Sample transportation in/out of the lab will be limited to the northeast stairwell adjacent to 319 Link to the greatest extent possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

Not Applicable

Adjournment

1. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:20 PM.
-

Minutes Prepared By

Name: Tiffany Nelson

Title: Chemical Safety Manager

Date: July 22, 2026