

Governance

Advisory/Management Committees



Institutional Biosafety Committee

Establishment

<i>When:</i>	1975 (as Biohazards Committee); renamed and reconstituted July 2001 2015 established as sub-committee of University Research Committee
<i>By what authority:</i>	In accordance with the Gene Technology Act 2000; Endorsed at VCC 11 December 2002
<i>For what period:</i>	Ongoing

Role/Terms of Reference

<i>Nature:</i>	<p>Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) are required to be consulted and used by organisations undertaking dealings with genetically modified organisms (GMOs).</p> <p>The Committee provides professional and unfettered advice on risks related to the gene technology work of the organisation.</p>
<i>Terms of Reference:</i>	<p>As per the Gene Technology Act 2000 (C'wth), the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 (C'wth) and corresponding State legislation, the Committee provides assistance to the University (an accredited organisation) in relation to the gene technology dealings that the organisation undertakes through advice on the identification and management of risks associated with dealings with GMOs and acting as interface with the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) for the University.</p> <p>The committee may act as IBC for organisations other than the University.</p> <p>Specifically the Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide advice to the organisation's personnel about the regulatory system and its requirements;• develop internal operating procedures in relation to the management of GMOs;• inspect facilities for which certification is sought;• inspect or arrange inspections of the organisation's containment facilities, against the requirements for containment, at least once per year;• consider, evaluate, assess and report on proposals submitted by the organisation in accordance with the legislation; and• maintain required records/registers of dealings and facilities in accordance with the legislation.
<i>Reporting line:</i>	The IBC reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President (Research) and University Research Committee.
<i>Quorum:</i>	The quorum is half of the full membership plus one. Recommendations are carried by the approval of a majority of

those members present at a meeting or by the approval of a majority of all members if the membership is screened out of meeting.

Procedures prescribed/determined itself:

As per the Gene Technology Act 2000 (C'wth), the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 (C'wth) and corresponding State legislation.

Frequency of meetings:

There is no prescribed frequency. The Committee meets once each month between February and November.

List of any sub-committees:

Nil

Membership

Any categories prescribed:

As per the OGTR Instrument of Accreditation, a properly constituted IBC will have the collective technical scientific expertise to review and assess all the matters that are likely to be put to it by the organisation. At least one member of the IBC must be independent.

The Committee has determined the following categories of membership to meet the prescribed expertise requirements: Animal Scientist; Biosafety Officer; Geneticist; Engineer; Environmentalist; Independent Person (external); Health and Safety Adviser; Medical Scientist; Microbiologist; Molecular Biologist; Plant Scientist. Appointed individuals may represent multiple categories and there may be more than one representative of each category.

In addition, the Committee elects to appoint members to the following roles: Postgraduate Student Representative; Social Scientist (an internal independent person).

The Secretary is an appointed member of the Committee.

Term of Office:

Members are nominated by the relevant Head of School and appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President (Research). The term of appointment is at the discretion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President (Research), but generally is for a 3 year period. Members have the option to renew.

Attendance

To account for requests for assessment of unanticipated risks and advice on dealings with GMOs, reliance on the advice of an expert (not a member of the IBC) to address specific, short-term skills deficit in the IBC will be recognised by the Regulator as compliance with that condition of accreditation.

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and president are ex-officio members of all Committees of Council and the Vice-Chancellor and President is an ex-officio member of all Committees of the University.

Contact person and phone/email

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