TWU Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting – Minutes
February 27, 2026 1:00 pm
Zoom Videoconference

Present: L. Hanson, J. Wojtaszek, S. Sinha, H. Zavalin, C. Brower, L. Byford

L. Hanson called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

I. C. Brower moved to approve the minutes of the December 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by J. Wojtaszek. Motion passed.

II. New Business

a. M. Anderson will probably retire in May 2026.

b. Annual Continuation Form – The teaching labs were BSL2 but will switch to BSL1 level. J. Wojtaszek said that of the 18 BSL 1 items, the goal is to bring the items in the lab to test them and find results. Healthcare microorganisms may no longer be available. May have to use case study homework instead. BSL2 items in the freezer will be autoclaved. J. Wojtaszek has talked to professors affected and let them know.

c. H. Zavalin will check with Nutrition and Food Sciences Department about the Food Micro courses.

d. Registrations/Continuations – L. Byford will follow up with those having outstanding registrations/continuations. She will send documents for signature via DocuSign. L. Hanson's form will be signed by C.Brower.

e. The federal government is revisiting biosafety levels (adding or taking away items from BSL 2) so we need to be aware.

f. A rolling schedule was discussed for original registration submissions like a 5, 10 or 15 year plan with BSL level 1 every 5 years (i.e. Registration form year 1 and then Continuation Form the next 4 years).

g. An amendment form was discussed with the understanding that work with materials is not to begin until the amendment form is approved.

h. Distinct form is needed for unknown samples so Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) could determine if the lab is set up to handle the items.

i. With the new Environmental Science Department, they will potentially have field studies so it was recommended to look at other universities to see what they are doing when collecting samples.

j. Next Meeting – Will aim for a meeting in Fall 2026.

III. L. Hanson made the motion to adjourn. C. Brower seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:41 pm.