



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBSC), BITS, PILANI – K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS

Meeting held on 23/11/2019 (Saturday), 1100-1155 hrs. at the Conference Room, BITS.

Attendance:

Members Present			
Prof. G. Raghurama (Chairperson)	Dr. Samir Damare (External Expert)	Prof. Utpal Roy (Internal Expert)	Dr. Sumit Biswas (Internal Expert)
Prof. Sunil Bhand (Member Secretary)	Prof. Sanjeev Ghadi (DBT nominee)	Dr. Angshuman Sarkar (Internal Expert)	**Dr. Steffi Soares, Biosafety Officer

**Member absent: Dr. Steffi Soares, Biosafety Officer.

- The meeting was chaired by the chairman, Prof. G. Raghurama, Director, BITS, Pilani – KK Birla Goa Campus.
- The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th May 2019 were discussed and the committee was apprised of the steps taken on those minutes.
- The committee decided to send a directive to all users and respective departments to ensure the use of Biosafety cabinets only for the purpose of handling designated biosafety level organisms and not to use such cabinets for routine microbiological procedures.
- The committee suggested the setting up of an institute-level committee for fast forwarding the process of construction of a BioSafety Level 2 laboratory in the institute.
- Two proposals from PIs Dr. Tusar Tirtha Saha and Dr. Malabika Biswas, which had come to the committee for approval/certification were discussed in the committee. The committee referred to the clarifications given by the PIs before making the following observations:

- Dr. Saha was requested to submit a procedure documenting the housing and breeding of mosquitoes for his work.
- Dr. Saha was also asked to obtain a certificate from the National Institute of Malaria Research Field Unit at Goa every time he brings mosquitoes from them, certifying that the mosquitoes are non-bloodfed.

c. Also, a logbook for entry and disposal of the mosquitoes (with suitable counts) need to be maintained by Dr. Saha.

d. Dr. Malabika Biswas was asked to ensure strict measures for preventing cross-contamination of the strain she would be using, and submit a document with the disposal procedures of the samples and strains.

- The above two proposals were agreed to be approved on submission of above documents.
- To avoid the growing number of exigent IBSC certification requests after approval of project proposal by funding agency, it was suggested that PIs be advised to submit their proposals for approval to the committee before submission to the funding agency (even though it may not be a pre-requisite for submission).
- All PIs should judiciously decide before declaring that their proposal does not require certification.
- The Chairman thanked the members and the next meeting was tentatively scheduled in the first semester of 2020.

Signed by,


Prof. G. Raghurama


Prof. S. Bhand


Prof. S. Ghadi


Dr. Samir Damare


Prof. U. Roy


Dr. A. Sarkar


Dr. S. Biswas


Dr. S. Soares