Minutes for Bucknell IBC Meeting
February 23, 2026

Members in Attendance	**Members Absent**
Julie Gates (IBC Chair)	Pavithra Vivekanand
Carol Pavlick	
Marie Pizzorno	
Wells Chandler	
Monica Hoover	
Olivia Boerman	
Rebecca Switzer	

Meeting called to order by the IBC Chair at 2:00p on Zoom.

The IBC Chair asked whether anyone had any changes that needed to be made to the minutes from the October 16, 2025 IBC meeting. No one had any changes. The IBC Chair moved that the minutes from the October 16, 2025 IBC meeting be approved. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion. The IBC Chair will post the approved minutes on the public IBC website.

Discussion of a revised protocol submitted by Christian Agatemor describing work with human cell lines.

The IBC Chair introduced this revised protocol that the IBC reviewed at our last meeting. Prof. Agatemor is working with five different established human cell lines, all of which will be obtained from ATCC. This work will be carried out by Prof. Agatemor and his undergraduate research students using either the established BSL2 facility in 217A Biology Bldg. or the new BSL2 facility in 318 Rooke Chemistry once the biosafety cabinet in this room has been certified. The previous version of the protocol included transporting viable human cells to his research lab in room 332 Rooke Chemistry so that measurements could be made using specialized equipment. This specialized equipment will no longer be used for the work with established human cell lines, eliminating the need to transport viable human cells between rooms. All work with viable human cells will be conducted in an common BSL2 facility (either 217A Biology Bldg. or 318 Rooke Chemistry). If analysis of human cells needs to take place outside a common BSL2 facility, the human cells will be chemically lysed within the biosafety cabinet using detergent-based lysis buffers before transport to another room.

Concerns Discussed by the Committee:
The committee discussed that the language used in the protocol for the spill clean-up procedures both inside and outside a biosafety cabinet was not in line with the standard BSL2 procedures. Specifically, the committee wanted the procedures to be updated to indicate that the 10% bleach or other disinfectant solution should be carefully poured around the paper towel covered spill, working outside to inside until the paper towels are completely saturated.

The committee also discussed the specific disinfectants and concentrations of those disinfectants that Prof. Agatemor describes using and determined that they are appropriate for work human cell lines.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Agatemor's revised protocol be approved pending the receipt of a revised protocol that addresses the discussed revision. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion Christian Agatemor's request to covert his research lab into a permanent BSL2 space.

The IBC Chair introduced the letter sent by Prof. Agatemor requesting permission from the IBC to convert his research lab in room 322 Rooke Chemistry into a permanent BSL2 space. Prof. Agatemor is requesting this so that work with sensitive, low passage primary immune cells and stem cells, can be carried out in a BSL2 space where contamination and variations in environmental controls can be minimized. This level of control cannot be achieved using a shared BSL2 space. Prof. Agatemor would also like to work with multi-drug resistant *Candida albicans* in 322 Rooke Chemistry after it is converted to a BSL2 space. In a previous meeting with Prof. Agatemor, the IBC Chair pointed out that the IBC may place restrictions on which personnel can work with the multi-drug resistant *Candida albicans* (Prof. Agatemor, postdoctoral researchers and masters students only) including that undergraduates are not allowed to enter 322 Rooke Chemistry while these organisms are being actively grown and worked with. This conversion will require ID card access on all doors to 322 Rooke Chemistry as well as the purchase, installation (location within the room according to NIH guidelines provided by IBC Chair) and certification of a Class II Type A2 biosafety cabinet and the purchase of any other necessary equipment such as a CO_2 incubator or centrifuge. Additionally, requests for card access to 322 Rooke Chemistry must be approved by the IBC Chair who will submit the request to Card Services. This room, 322 Rooke Chemistry, already has an eyewash station and safety shower installed.

Concerns Discussed by the Committee:
The committee discussed how the transitions between times when access to 322 Rooke Chemistry would be restricted to Prof. Agatemor, postdoctoral researchers and masters students and times when undergraduate research students would be allowed access. The committee decided that Prof. Agatemor would be expected to email the IBC Chair with the specific dates that the restricted work would be occurring at least one week in advance so that the IBC Chair can remove card access to 322 Rooke Chemistry for all undergraduate students. After this work in complete, Prof. Agatemor would need to decontaminate 322 Rooke Chemistry as described in an IBC-approved protocol. Following decontamination, Prof. Agatemor would need to email the IBC Chair a list of the undergraduate research students who need their card access to 322 Rooke Chemistry reinstated.

The committee also discussed the need for the BSL2 designation, once approved, to remain indefinitely. The committee decided that all personnel working in 322 Rooke Chemistry will need to complete the BSL2 training module through the Citi Program website before they are

given card access to this room, even if they are not conducting experiments that require BSL2 precautions.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Agatemor be allowed to move forward with the conversion of 322 Rooke Chemistry to a BSL2 space provided he agrees to the terms discussed by the committee. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion of an updated protocol from Ken Field and DeeAnn Reeder describing work with North American Bats.

The IBC Chair introduced this updated protocol that was discussed at our previous meeting. This work must be conducted using enhanced BSL1 precautions due to the low risk of the North American bat species they are working with carrying rabies.

Concerns Discussed by the Committee:
The committee discussed the procedures that are followed in the event of an exposure (bite or scratch from a North American bat). These procedures include completing a lab-specific Injury Report that is kept in a clearly marked logbook in Prof. Reeder's laboratory in 355 Biology Bldg. While several committee members expressed appreciation that these lab-specific records are being kept, they were concerned that the procedure does not include notifying Bucknell's Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) in the event of an exposure. The committee decided that this protocol should be updated to include that EH&S is notified in the event of an exposure (bite or scratch from a North American bat) so that EH&S can provide guidance on any university forms that must also be completed and kept on file with EH&S.

The IBC Chair moved that the updated protocol submitted by Profs. Field and Reeder be approved pending the receipt of a revised protocol that addresses the discussed revision. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion of a new protocol from Terry Campbell describing lab activities in BIOL 235 using BSL1 and BSL2 bacteria.

The IBC Chair introduced this new protocol that describes lab activities for BIOL 235-Microbiology for Health Professions using both BSL1 and BSL2 bacteria. This is a mixed majors/non-majors course so there could be senior biology majors taking the course at the same time as First-Year non-science majors.

Concerns Discussed by the Committee:
The committee discussed how the student lab notebooks would be stored between lab periods. They concluded that these notebooks should be placed into lidded plastic containers that are labeled with the universal biohazard symbol, the course number and the statement "Biohazardous material. To be opened by authorized personnel only." The closed containers can then be kept in a low traffic area of the lab room.

The committee discussed the proposed procedures for allowing students to use their cell phones to take photos of the lab notebook. They concluded that Prof. Campbell would be allowed to choose from one of the following options:

1) Students place their cell phones into a plastic zip-top bag at the beginning of lab and then take photos through the plastic bag.
2) Prof. Campbell takes photos of the lab notebook pages and then distributes them to the students after class.
3) If the students are working in teams, have one member each week assigned to be the designated note taker. The note taker would not handle the BSL2 bacteria and would be responsible for taking photos of the lab notebook pages and then distribute them to the other team members.

The committee discussed the need for all sections of the protocol to clearly indicate that single-use inoculation loops or needles will be used for all work with BSL2 bacteria and that these single-use inoculation loops or needles will be placed directly into a red bag-lined biohazard waste container after use.

The committee discussed the procedures for cleaning the lab room at the end of class. They concluded that at the end of each lab period when BSL2 bacteria are being handled, any benchtop red bag-lined biohazard waste containers that were used must have their red bags removed, sealed with lab tape and placed into a large red bag-lined biohazard waste box.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Campbell's protocol be approved pending the receipt of a revised protocol that addresses the discussed revisions. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion of a new protocol from Jude Okolie describing research using anaerobic digestion of wastewater biosolids.

The IBC Chair introduced this new protocol that describes research using anaerobic digestion of wastewater biosolids. This work will be carried out in the EESL by Prof. Okolie and his undergraduate research students using enhanced BSL1 precautions. The major risk with this research is the potential presence of E. coli in the wastewater biosolids.

Concerns Discussed by the Committee:
The committee discussed the reference to the anerobic inoculum samples as being handled using appropriate BSL2 safety practices. They concluded that this phrase should be deleted and replaced with a description of how the biohazardous material will be handled.

The committee discussed how the digestate after anaerobic digestion is being stored. They concluded that the air tight plastic Nalgene bottles containing the digestate should be stored in a chemical fume hood rather than on the benchtop.

The committee discussed how the labware that has contacted the anaerobic inoculum will be decontaminated prior to washing. They concluded that the bleach solution that is being used must be freshly prepared.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Okolie's protocol be approved pending the receipt of a revised protocol that addresses the discussed revisions. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion of a new protocol from Austin Wadle describing a Senior Design Project for CEEG 493 using transgenic bacteria that are not exempt from the NIH Guidelines.

The IBC Chair introduced this new protocol describing a Senior Design Project for CEEG 493 using transgenic bacteria that are not exempt from the NIH Guidelines. Prof. Wadle will oversee this work by senior undergraduate students using BSL1 guidelines.

Concerns Discussed by the Committee:
The committee discussed the need for Prof. Wadle to provide the volume range for the liquid bacterial cultures.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Wadle's protocol be approved pending the receipt of a revised protocol that addresses the discussed revision. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion of an old protocol (last reviewed 2013) from David Rovnyak describing metabolomics using human serum and urine samples.

The IBC Chair introduced this protocol, which was submitted by Prof. Rovnyak and last reviewed in 2013. This protocol describes metabolomics work using human serum and urine samples. The human serum and urine samples are collected and initially processed at Geisinger Medical Center using BSL2 precautions. Before being transported to Bucknell these samples are chemically inactivated. At Bucknell, these inactivated samples will be handled using enhanced BSL1 precautions by Prof. Rovnyak, his masters students and his undergraduate research students.

No committee members expressed any concerns regarding this protocol.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Rovnyak's protocol be approved. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion of an old protocol (last reviewed 2014) from Matthew Heintzelman describing lab activities for BIOL 352-Cell Biology using human cheek cells and human blood samples.

The IBC Chair introduced this protocol, which was submitted by Prof. Heintzelman and last reviewed in 2014. This protocol describes lab activities for BIOL 352-Cell Biology using human cheek cells and human blood samples. These lab activities are carried out using BSL2 precautions with students only handling their own samples. This course is taken by junior and senior biology majors.

No committee members expressed any concerns regarding this protocol.

The IBC Chair moved that Prof. Heintzelman's protocol be approved. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned by the IBC Chair at 2:55p.