

Baylor University Laboratory Safety Committee Overview

The Laboratory Safety Committee (LSC) provides general oversight and guidance to the Baylor University campus through the promotion of a safe working environment in all research and teaching laboratories. The Committee works with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost through the Department of Environmental, Health & Safety. The committee consists of members from departments reflecting the diversity of disciplines involved with Laboratory Safety on the Baylor Campus and subject to the OSHA Laboratory Standard (29 cfr 1910.1450) and Hazard Communication Standard (29 cfr 1910.1200).

The responsibilities of the LSC are to:

- Assist in the development and recommendation of policies applicable to the health and safety of laboratory work
- Collaborate with EH&S to establish strategies to ensure ongoing and adequate hazard identification, surveillance and risk evaluation of laboratory activities
- Review findings of inspection and campus hazard identification programs
- Communicate with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to ensure consistency and to encourage collaboration
- Serve as a communication link between the departments represented and EH&S, to encourage transparency and collaboration in the establishment of the campus safety culture

1. Baylor University Laboratory Safety Committee Authority

- All members of Baylor University are required to conduct university operations in compliance with applicable federal, state and local regulations as well as with university health and safety standards and practices
- The Laboratory Safety Committee (LSC) assists in promoting a safe working environment in all research and teaching laboratories on campus
- The committee advises and reports to the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost through the Department of Environmental, Health & Safety
- The LSC has the authority to recommend the modification, suspension, and termination of any laboratory activities that are deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to life or safety

2. Baylor University Laboratory Safety Committee Mandate

- Assist in the development and recommendation of policies applicable to the health and safety of laboratory work
- Receive and review reports of the Department of Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) laboratory safety inspections
- Collaborate with EH&S to establish strategies to ensure ongoing and adequate surveillance, hazard identification and risk evaluation of laboratory activities
- Communicate with other campus safety committees including the IBC, IRB, and IACUC on mutual safety concerns
- Review annually the university safety program and advise the Executive Vice President on its effectiveness
- Serve as a communication link between the departments represented and EH&S, to encourage transparency and collaboration in the establishment of the campus safety culture

3. Committee Chair

The EHS Laboratory Safety Program Manager will serve as the Committee Chair.

4. Committee Composition

Ex Officio Voting Members

- Safety Officer, Department of Anthropology
- Safety Officer, Department of Art
- Safety Officer, Department of Biology
- Safety Officer, Department of Chemistry
- Safety Officer, Engineering and Computer Science
- Safety Officer, Department of Environmental Science
- Safety Officer, Department of Family & Consumer Science
- Safety Officer, Department of Geology
- Safety Officer, Department of Physics
- Safety Officer, Department of Psychology/Neuroscience
- Safety Officer, Department of Theatre Arts
- Representative, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Representative, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
- Representative, Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Non-Voting Advisory Members

- The Chair of the Committee may appoint individuals who have special interest and/or expertise to serve as non-voting advisors to the committee

Terms of appointment

- All members of the LSC are appointed for one-year terms and may be reappointed to additional terms

Voting

- The committee shall act by majority vote of the voting members present
- A quorum shall be a majority of the voting membership

Committee Approval: This committee charter was approved by the members of the Laboratory Safety Committee (LSC) on January 28, 2014.