

**Agenda for 11th meeting of the Biosafety Committee of the University of Hong Kong.
(A sub-committee of the Safety Health and Environment Committee).**

To be held on Thursday, October 3rd 2013, 9.30 a.m., Room 412 at Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital.

1. Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Biosafety Committee (14th March 2013)

The draft minutes of the 10th meeting of the Biosafety Committee are included as Appendix 1 for approval as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the 10th meeting (action points etc.)

- i) Follow up on Introductory Biosafety course
- ii) Risk assessment and Biosafety Policy documents – there were no comments from the consultation and both documents will be sent to SHEC for final approval.
- iii) Secretary arranged for the “guidance on the use of cell lines in research” to be placed on the Safety Office website.

3. New arrangements for Safety approval of CULATR applications (For Information).

The CULATR committee approved the proposal that Heads of Department could give safety approval for applications without reference to the Safety Office unless advice was required. This is as a result of some of the discussions this committee has had regarding research safety approval.

4. New Research application checklists - including Biosafety (For information).

Appendix 2 is a document written by Dr Hau and submitted to SHEC for discussion of the research approval process. As a result of some of these discussions the checklists were revised and have been sent to Research Services (Please see Appendix 3). The revised checklists have more of an emphasis on the safety issues to be considered by the PI and expand the declaration to underline the importance the PI has in promoting and maintaining safety standards. (The end of Appendix 2 has the old checklists for comparison). We are awaiting comment and possible approval.

5. Oversight of gain of function experiments.

Professor Peiris of the School of Public Health has requested that the University develops a mechanism to oversee what has been termed gain of function experiments in the Influenza research community. Appendix 4 contains a summary of the background and proposals to provide a workable mechanism. The opinion of the committee is sought on a number of aspects of the proposal, specific questions are also contained within Appendix 4.

6. Critical Infrastructure

The Police have recently been in contact with the University about “Critical Infrastructure”. Appendix 5 contains an e-mail exchange between the secretary and a police officer making the enquiries. It appears that there is a wide definition of what constitutes critical infrastructure and that it can be considered broadly as what a terrorist might target. The opinion of the committee is sought on how to proceed, who to inform,

in terms of the university management and which departments might consider they had critical infrastructure.

7. Dates of next meetings.

The next two Biosafety Committee meetings have been tentatively scheduled for 13th March 2014 and the 9th October 2014. These dates are intended to be flexible and will be confirmed nearer the time with committee members by e-mail.