Middle Tennessee State University

IBC meeting minutes

Date of meeting: December 11, 2025

Format of meeting: Virtual

Voting members in attendance:

April Weissmiller, chair	☒	Mary Farone	☒
Justin Miller	☒	Ying (Iris) Gao	☐
Jason Jessen	☒	David Nelson	☒
Jessica Arbour	☒	William Tansey	☒
Brianna Smith	☒		

Non-voting members and/or guests:

Emily Anne Badger, Research Compliance	☐
Jim Rowland, EH&S	☒

Introductions/Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM with quorum of at least 50% voting members present.

The chair went through the agenda items. There were no new introductions or announcements.

Registration reviews and/or amendments to pre-existing protocols

There was one IBC protocol submission to review by Dr. Manuel Giannoni-Guzman in the Biology Department. The chair reminded the committee of the three motions that can be voted on: approve, approve with minor modifications, or deny approval.

Research Statement (from protocol): This project will develop innovative neuromolecular tools, including fluorescent and bioluminescent reporters, that specifically label honeybee clock neurons, enabling the first direct visualization and functional analysis of the

pollinator's circadian clock. The project will investigate how environmental signals influence clock-neuron activity and identify the mechanisms by which environmental stressors disrupt circadian regulation. Because circadian rhythms are highly sensitive to sublethal stress, these assays will provide a powerful platform for assessing short- and medium-term risks across behavioral, neural, and molecular levels. Together, this work will advance pollinator health research and inform best practices that support sustainable pollination and agricultural resilience.

Biohazardous risk categories:

1. Introduction of rDNA into animal cells and whole organism (honeybee, Risk group 2 agent)
2. Use of K-12 derived *E. coli* for amplification of plasmid DNA
3. Use of viral vectors and viral particles (Baculovirus, lentivirus)
    - Autographa californica multiple nucleopolyhedrovirus (AcMNPV), cannot replicate in mammalian cells
    - PGK-GFP lentiviral vector, replication deficient

Training and Facilities: Proposed facilities/rooms have been approved for BSL-1/BSL-2 work, biosafety training for investigator and personnel on the protocol has been verified by the Biology designated training coordinator

All voting members (8/8) voted to approve the protocol with minor modifications.

Incidents to report

There were no safety incidents to report.

Discussion Items

There were no new discussion items.