Policy on Appointment of Members to the Virginia Tech Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

To ensure compliance with Section IV-B-2 of the NIH *Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules* (NIH Guidelines), requiring establishment of an IBC, the Virginia Tech Vice President for Research (VPR) shall appoint members of the IBC and may add, reappoint, or remove members. Qualified successors shall be nominated as required, based on the recommendations of the Institutional Biosafety Officer, the IBC Chair or Vice-Chair, and/or the Associate Vice President for Research Compliance. Appointments will be made formally, in writing, in a letter from the VPR to the appointee.

The term of appointment for Virginia Tech IBC members shall be 3 years. While a fixed term of service will allow new members and fresh perspectives to be added to the IBC, members may be reappointed to the IBC if they are willing to continue to serve, and if reappointment is recommended by the BSO, IBC Chair, or AVP for Research Compliance.

In accordance with Section IV-B-2-a-(1) of the *NIH Guidelines*, the Virginia Tech IBC will be comprised of no fewer than five members, so selected that they collectively have experience and expertise in recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid technology, biological safety, and physical containment, and the capability to assess the safety of recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid research and to identify any potential risk to public health or the environment.

Virginia Tech IBC membership shall include:

- at least one individual with expertise in plant, plant pathogen, or plant pest containment principles when experiments utilize Appendix P, *Physical and Biological Containment for Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Research Involving Plants*;

- at least one scientist with expertise in animal containment principles when experiments utilize Appendix Q, *Physical and Biological Containment for Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Research Involving Animals*;

- the institutional Biological Safety Officer;

- at least two members not affiliated with the institution (apart from their membership on the Institutional Biosafety Committee) and who represent the interest of the surrounding community with respect to health and protection of the environment; and,

- at least one member representing the laboratory technical staff.

[Adopted/Approved: 12/9/2011]
Policy Addressing Conflict of Interest for Members of the Virginia Tech Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

In accordance with Section IV-B-2-a-(4) of the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules*, no member of the Virginia Tech IBC may be involved (except to provide information requested by the IBC) in the review or approval of a project in which he/she has been or expects to be engaged or has a direct financial interest.

When a member has a conflict of interest, the member should notify the IBC Chairperson and may not participate in the IBC review or approval except to provide information if the committee requests such. Other examples of conflict of interest cases include:

- A member is involved in a potentially competing research program.
- Accesses to funding or intellectual information may provide an unfair competitive advantage.
- A member’s personal biases may interfere with his or her impartial judgment.

Members who may have a conflict of interest may not be counted toward a quorum and may not vote.

[Adopted/Approved: 12/9/2011]