

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

August 11, 2006

Kansas State University Alumni Center, Manhattan

Members Present

Senator Jay Emler, Chairman
Representative Mario Goico, Vice-Chairman
Senator Nick Jordan
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Representative Carl Krehbiel
Representative Julie Menghini
Representative Lee Tafanelli

Members Absent

Senator Jim Barone (excused)
Senator Chris Steineger (excused)
Representative Judy Loganbill (excused)

Staff

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Scott Rusk, Kansas State University
David R. Franz, Director, Biosecurity Research Institute
Marty Vanier, Associate Director, National Agricultural Biosecurity Center
Julie Johnson, Biosecurity/Biosafety Advisor, Biosecurity Research Institute

The Committee was provided the following documents:

- Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response “Managing the Risk” booklet – Adjutant General’s Department 2005-2006 Annual Report ([Attachment 1](#));
- Press releases on Making America Safer from K-State Media Relations and Marketing ([Attachment 2](#)); and
- Brochure on National Agricultural Biosecurity Center — K-State ([Attachment 3](#)).

Copies of the above information are on file in the office of the Legislative Research Department.

Overview of Biosecurity Research Institute

David R. Franz, Director of the Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI), presented an overview of the Biosecurity Research Institute. Currently, Kansas State University (KSU) is completing the new \$50 million, 34,000 square foot Biosecurity Level Three (BL-3) biocontainment facility. This facility will feature a number of animal rooms for supporting diagnosis of infectious agents in livestock, a slaughter floor, and laboratories for researching the pathogenesis and toxin biosynthesis of food crop pathogens.

Marty Vanier, DVM, Associate Director of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center (NABC), reviewed the history of KSU developing practical applications for safeguarding America’s livestock, crops, and food supply. NABC was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) to conduct three studies crucial to America’s agricultural security. The NABC also received funding from the Department of Defense for: (1) agroterrorism exercises; (2) information technology; (3) military medical defense intelligence gathering; and (4) food safety and security for U.S. military forces. Other activities include international surveillance collaborations with Russia and the European Union. KSU also manages the Great Plains Diagnostic Network – a nine-state regional plant disease diagnostic hub – for the USDA.

Scott Rusk, Assistant Director for operations at BRI, described how the facility works. He explained the procedures, protocols, approvals, and policies for the various operations and the security components.

Julie Johnson, biosecurity/biosafety advisor for BRI, explained the functions of the Institute.

Committee members questioned:

- How the funds are being distributed throughout the United States?
- How the decision is reached on how research is done and what research is selected?
- How many facilities like this are in the United States?

The staff provided information on the funding distribution, how research projects are selected, and the extent of research facilities throughout the U.S.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Jordan, seconded by Representative Goico, the minutes of the June 23, 2006 meeting of the Joint Committee on Kansas Security, be approved. Motion carried.

Following lunch, the group was transported to the BRI facility and taken on a tour which included explanation of the security procedures, the layout of the facility, and function of various components.

Prepared by Ann McMorris
Edited by Amy VanHouse

Approved by Committee on:

September 5, 2006

(Date)