



## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

February 10, 2005

### *Joint Faculty Senate/Provost Working Group on RBL-3 Siting*

Walter Stamm, Professor and Head, Division of Allergy & Infectious Disease, ***Co-chair***  
Douglas Wadden, Professor, Design; Past Chair Faculty Senate, ***Co-chair***  
Marilyn E. Cox, Director of Capital Planning, Office of Capital & Space Planning  
Alison Cullen, Associate Professor, Evans School of Public Affairs  
David W. Emery, Research Associate Professor, Medical Genetics  
G. Ross Heath, Professor, School of Oceanography; Chair, Faculty Senate  
Edward Miles, Professor, School of Marine Affairs  
Vicky Stormo, Police Chief, University Police  
John Wingfield, Professor, Dept. of Biology  
Karen VanDusen, Director, Environmental Health & Safety  
GPSS Representative  
ASUW Representative  
*Staff:* Nancy Bradshaw, Staff Assistant, Faculty Senate

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you all for agreeing to serve on this working group to advise President Emmert on the proposed Regional Biocontainment Lab-Level 3 (RBL-3) facility. More specifically, the charge is to:

- Provide general advice on the proposed RBL-3 and address responses to questions raised about the facility.
- Develop a comprehensive set of pros and cons (scientific, social, and institutional) for three alternative responses to the UW's needs and aspirations for biological safety level 3 (BSL-3) space:
  - No action (creation of BSL-3 space as needed within existing facilities).
  - Construction of the RBL-3 on campus (including a full assessment of site-related issues).
  - Construction of the RBL-3 off campus (again including a full assessment of site-related issues).

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The working group should take advantage of experiences gained at other academic institutions that have constructed or considered constructing free-standing BSL-3 facilities both in urban and rural areas. All three options should be fully developed (i.e., the analysis should not favor any particular option). Please consult broadly within the UW and with others who have an interest in this decision.

We ask you to produce a brief but comprehensive summary of the three options and provide general advice as appropriate, to give the President a robust basis for making a decision on the future of the proposal currently before the NIH. We would very much appreciate receiving your report by June 1, 2005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DB Thorud". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

David B. Thorud  
Acting Provost

c: President Mark Emmert