

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17th OCT 2011 AT 4.00PM

309 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2011 (BSC/10/46) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

310 MATTERS ARISING

310.1 Certificate Holder's visit to facilities [vide Minute 295.1]

NOTED that the Certificate Holder and two other members had recently toured facilities ^{S38 Health and Safety} and had been impressed by the high standards of care that were apparent. Being able to see on-going procedure work had also been a very useful aspect of the visit.

310.2 Review of University Committee structure - [vide Minute 275.2]

NOTED that no changes had been made to the Biological Standards Committee or its terms of reference in the new structure, and that the Committee would continue to report to the Governance Committee.

310.3 Project Licence Application - *Thalamic and Cortical Mechanisms of Sleep and Epilepsy* [vide Minute 296.5]

NOTED that the application had been submitted to the Home Office to include the additional information required by the Committee, and had subsequently been granted by the Home Office.

310.4 Report from the NVS - risks from feral pigeons [vide Minute 300.2]

NOTED that ESTAT have looked at the problem of feral pigeons roosting in areas adjacent to animal facilities and have put in place what measures they could. Pigeons cannot be completely excluded from these areas, however Regular cleaning up of the areas is the only other measure available to manage this potential risk to animal health.

310.5 Report from the Users' Group - availability of budget information [vide Minute 303.2]

NOTED that Finance would be able to confirm costings for the next financial year during the next seven days and that a meeting of the Users' Group would be held before Christmas to respond to this.

311 ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

Received paper BSC/11/02 "Committee Terms of Reference and Membership 2011/12".

311.1 NOTED that the Terms of Reference were comprehensive and accurately explained the functions of the Committee and the roles of its membership.

311.2 NOTED that the Personal Licensees' representative on the Committee had resigned and that the role was currently being filled by the deputy, who was welcomed by the Chair. The Users' Group was

responsible for the appointment and would be making arrangement for a formal replacement before the next meeting.

312 ITEMS FROM THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Received papers BSC/11/03 "Licensee Training - Module 1 Plus" and BSC/11/04 "Home Office consultation on the transposition of the revised EU Directive into UK law"

Licensee Training - Module 1 Plus

NOTED

- 312.1 that this additional training session on legal requirements for personal licensees was necessary to promote full appreciation of the law's demands and help prevent inadvertent failures of compliance through incomplete appreciation of the complex rules;
- 312.2 that the sessions had been running informally for some time and had been welcomed by attendees and were commended by the Universities' Accreditation Scheme's Quality Assurance audit in 2010.

RESOLVED

- 312.3 that Module 1 Plus training be adopted as a formal requirement within the University for applicants for personal licences.

Home Office consultation on the transposition of the EU Directive into UK law

NOTED

- 312.4 that the Certificate Holder's Advisory Group had recommended responses to the Home Office consultation, for which the chair thanked those who had been involved.
- 312.5 that the Home Office had received around 13,000 submissions, of which some 500 were substantive.
- 312.6 that the transposition details were expected to be announced by the Home Office around the start of 2012, and that there was a deadline of 01 January 2013 for the implementation of the Directive in all member states.
- 312.7 that the Directive had drawn heavily on the UK's current A(SP)A in its content, and that two former Home Office inspectors had been appointed by the EU to advise on its implementation throughout the Union.

313 PROJECT LICENCE APPLICATION

Received paper BSC/11/05 "*Strategies For Brain Repair*"

NOTED

- 313.1 that the proposed amendment to an existing surgical method would improve results significantly whilst involving only transient pain, which would be managed by good analgesia;

- 313.2 that the amendment was at Committee because it applied to a "substantial" severity limit protocol;
- 313.3 that the existing "substantial" severity classification for the whole protocol might have been applied for cautiousness because the procedure had been new to the group when first proposed, and that this might be reconsidered if a continuation application is made;
- 313.4 that no objections to the proposed work were made;

RESOLVED

- 313.5 that the application be recommended for submission to the Home Office.

314 CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Received paper BSC/11/06 "Licensing Report".

NOTED that since the last meeting, the Certificate Holder's Advisory Group had recommended seven applications for amendments to existing project licences and three applications for continuation project licences.

315 THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING HOUSING AND HUSBANDRY IN RAT RESEARCH

Received paper BSC/11/07

NOTED

- 315.1 that the paper was useful in informing members and largely echoed the ARRIVE Guidelines in a US context.
- 315.2 that two members had looked into current practices in reporting these details and had found generally that groups in the University reported some or most of these areas, but that space constraints from journals restricted full reporting.
- 315.3 that compliance with the ARRIVE Guidelines was now a question on ERP's retrospective review of project licences.
- 315.4 that the possibility of setting up a location on the University website for ERP and related matters as a resource for those working with animals might be helpful in promoting good practice in this area.

316 REPORT OF THE BVAAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW JOINT WORKING GROUP ON REFINEMENT

Received paper BSC/11/08

- 316.1 NOTED that this paper was valuable in clearly setting out some general principles for the objective assessment of animals for pain or distress;

RESOLVED

- 316.2 that the paper be sent out to all who might benefit from such guidance, e.g. licensees and animal care staff;
- 316.3 that the issue of improved methods of handling mice be taken forward by the Users' Group.

317 VISITS BY THE HOME OFFICE INSPECTOR


NOTED

- 317.1 that the inspector was present at the meeting and that that this was unannounced, as were inspection visits to two areas prior to the meeting. This was the fourth visit since the previous meeting;
- 317.2 that two relatively small matters of concern had been raised and rectified during the inspections: a PhD student needed to improve his practice in the recovery of mice from anaesthesia, and arrangements for NACWO duties during holiday periods were improved in one facility. A third concern over the appropriateness of work to the barrier status of facilities would be dealt with in a later agenda - *GAA Facility Update*;

318 REPORT FROM THE NAMED VETERINARY SURGEON

Received paper BSC/11/09

NOTED

- 318.1 that the method of animal health record keeping had been updated to an electronic system so that all information was easily accessible to NACWOs via the BSO's office and could be made available to others e.g. the Home Office inspector, as needed;
- 318.2 that the import of animal tissues into and out of facilities was a high risk factor for biosecurity, and that whilst the importation of live animals into facilities was tightly controlled via the NACWOs and NVS, tissue transfer was not and relied on the knowledge and integrity of individuals to avoid inadvertent contamination of animal colonies. No practical reason could be seen why tissues could not be screened for entry in the same way as whole animals are;
- 318.3 that an initiative to develop a pathogen screening service within  might provide a local solution to the problem;
- 318.4 that the export of tissues containing pathogens to other institutions could potentially result in legal action against the University, although no instance of this in other institutions was known of by the Committee;

RESOLVED

- 318.5 that the Users' Group be consulted on the issue of biosecurity in importing tissues into facilities.

319 CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION

NOTED

- 319.1 that an area outside the holding facilities and user schools had been designated for fish under procedure, but that no actual procedures would be conducted there. The area was able to provide specialist facilities for observing fish swimming in flowing water;
- 319.2 that a new, high quality suite of procedure rooms had been designated for use in research projects^{S38 Health and Safety} and that the previously used procedure rooms had been dedesignated.

320 NATIONAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS ON ANIMAL USE 2010

Received paper BSC/11/10

NOTED

- 320.1 that the number of procedures in the University had dropped significantly in 2010;
- 320.2 that the animals of choice for procedures were very clearly mice and rats, with fish and other aquatics a distant second, and that all other species were used only in very small numbers;

321 ANNUAL JBIOS INFRASTRUCTURE AND FINANCE

Received paper BSC/11/11

NOTED

- 321.1 that JBIOS had undergone a good financial year in which costs had been successfully controlled;
- 321.2 that vacated posts in JBIOS were not automatically being replaced, and that alternative strategies including secondments were being used successfully;

RESOLVED

- 321.3 that the report be received and the successful performance welcomed.

322 REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR OF JBIOS FACILITIES

Received paper BSC/11/12.

NOTED

- 322.1 that a chiller unit was to be replaced, but that disruption to Code of Practice conditions in animal rooms was being efficiently minimized by careful planning;
- 322.2 that a training day on animals in research had been organised in collaboration with BIOSI for a group of Marie Curie PhD students from around Europe;
- 322.3 that an environmental audit of JBIOS had been completed by OSHEU and that arrangements were in place to address action points by the agreed dates;

- 322.4 that OSHEU were setting up an action group to implement plans for face-fitting masks for users of facilities.

323 REPORT FROM THE USERS' GROUP

Received an oral report from the Chair of the Users' Group

NOTED

- 323.1 that the Group welcomed the news that it was to be fully consulted for the first time on the animal maintenance financial arrangements prior to charges being set;

- 323.2 that the availability of Estates rates for facilities would be essential to carry out this process.

324 REPORT FROM THE S38 Health and Safety BARRIER FACILITIES

Received paper BSC/11/13 from the barrier representative.

NOTED

- 324.1 that mouse embryo work was being carried out for another university, and that this posed no animal health risks to the colonies in the University;

- 324.2 that relocating work S38 Health and Safety might not be possible before February;

325 CAPITAL MATTERS AND ESTATES REPORT

Received an oral report from the Directors of Estates Development (Engineering and Architecture).

NOTED

- 325.1 that new lighting diffusers to comply with Code of Practice lighting levels S38 Health and Safety facility were likely to be available in November;

- 325.2 that the use of the Category 3 S38 Health and Safety had been delayed by steam blistering of paint surfaces in the area;

- 325.3 that work was expected to start imminently on alterations to enable the use of the S38 Health and Safety and that a pre-contract meeting had been scheduled for later in the week;

326 FACILITIES FOR GENETICALLY ALTERED ANIMALS UPDATE

Received Paper BSC/11/14

NOTED

- 326.1 that although some small meetings over the Summer had been useful in establishing facts about the processes underlying the operation of facilities for genetically altered animals, the issue still hinged on expected demand from users;

- 326.2 that S38 Health and Safety users anticipated the likely need for barrier facilities from their research to be around three times the capacity of the existing ;

- 326.3 that it was known that four research groups S38 Health and Safety had either begun keeping animals in the MHV-free facilities S38 Health and Safety or had requested space to do this, indicating that there was demand for keeping effectively barriered animals from the schools as well as from - based researchers;
- 326.4 that existing formulae for calculating animal maintenance costs could be applied to maintenance of animals in the new barrier area S38 Health and Safety
- 326.5 that project licence holders needed to be mindful of standard condition 6 of their licence when deciding the level of barrier needed for their animals. Incurring unnecessary adverse effects brought about by the combination of genetic alteration and sub-clinical pathogens could be interpreted as a breach of this condition, and therefore animals must be kept in the most appropriate facility, regardless of inconvenience to the users;
- 326.6 that there were now much stronger indications that a review of the arrangements for genetically altered animals across the University was needed at a strategic level;
- 326.7 that the current design and engineering provision S38 Health and Safety did not qualify it to be regarded as "barrier" facility, and that the possible radical revision of existing arrangements was likely to impact on the plans to bring S38 Health and Safety back into use in the near future;

RESOLVED

- 326.8 that, subject to the views of senior University management, a strategic review be undertaken as soon as possible to advise on the best way forward in the provision of facilities for genetically altered animals;
- 326.9 that such a review should be informed and advised by one or more expert and independent advisers;
- 326.10 that a report on this be brought to the next meeting.

327 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23rd January 2012 at 4.00pm

**FILE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2011 AT 4.00PM**

Signed.....(Chair)