

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JAN 2012 AT 4.00PM

328 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th Oct 2011 (BSC/11/15) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

329 MATTERS ARISING

329.1 Project Licence amendment application [*vide* Minute 313.5]

NOTED the amendment application had been made and had subsequently been granted by the Home Office.

329.2 NVS Report - importation of tissues [*vide* Minute 318.5]

NOTED

.1 that the issue had been taken up by the Users' Group;

.2 that a request to import tissues into a facility had recently been received.

329.3 Refinement in mouse handling [*vide* Minute 316.2 &.3]

NOTED that the paper had been sent out and that comments had been received via the Users' Group, to be reported at Agendum 16.

330 ITEMS FROM THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Received papers BSC/11/17 "Report on the Certificate Holder's meeting with the Home Office Inspector", Governance Paper 11/489 "Annual Compliance Report", and an oral report on the Home Office consultation on the Code of Practice.

Report on the Certificate Holder's meeting with the Home Office Inspector

NOTED

330.1 that the risk rating assigned to the University reflected the volume of research activity rather than specific concerns over compliance;

330.2 that rating objective criteria for such a rating system would be expected;

330.3 that the inspector had commended the University in relation to its operation under ASPA, notably the conduct of ERP and its breadth of input.

Annual Compliance Report

330.4 NOTED that the Certificate Holder had presented the report to the last meeting of the Governance Committee, and that the report had been accepted.

Home Office Consultation

NOTED

330.5 that the Home Office had invited responses to its consultation on the replacement of the Code of Practice on the Housing and care of Animals;

330.6 that the response was required by the end of January;

RESOLVED

330.7 that the BSO invite and co-ordinate responses from Project Licence holders to formulate a University response to the Home Office on behalf of the Certificate Holder

331 PROJECT LICENCE APPLICATION and RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW

Received paper BSC/11/18 *"Calcium signaling in the pancreas"* and BSC/11/19 *"Thalamic and Cortical Mechanisms of Sleep and Absence Epilepsy"*

Project Licence Application

NOTED

331.1 that the application was from a group with a good reputation and was similar in its use of techniques to one with which the applicants were very familiar, and which was held in their previous university;

331.2 that the NVS's observation that pancreatitis was a potentially painful condition in animals was dealt with in part by the applicants intention to conclude the experiments at a very early stage of pancreatitis, around forty-eight hours post-operatively, before the adverse effects became significant;

331.3 that the possible adverse effects section should be made less vague to assist NACWOs and others in monitoring for the occurrence of adverse effects;

331.4 that the typical experience of an animal under procedure could not be inferred from the application;

331.5 that the cannulation of the bile duct in a mouse was technically difficult, but that the applicants were competent in this and that the surgery would be likely to be carried out by a collaborator who was very experienced and skilled in the technique;

RESOLVED

331.6 that the applicant address these items and meet with the NVS and BSO to agree the necessary changes to the application so that it may be recommended for submission to the Home Office.

Retrospective review of a Project Licence

Received BSC/11/19 - Retrospective Review of *"Thalamic and cortical Mechanisms of Sleep and Epilepsy"*

NOTED

- 331.7 that this retrospective review had come to Committee because some of the work in the project licence involved a species for special consideration;
- 331.8 that the need to use animals in the work was demonstrated, and that the sleep element in the project demanded the use of the sensitive species because human-type thalamic rhythms were not found in rodents;
- 331.9 that the licensed work had involved collaboration with a pharmaceutical company with a view towards translation into therapeutic developments, but that epilepsy was not a high priority for industry funding;

RESOLVED

- 331.10 that the retrospective review be accepted and the licensee thanked for his very helpful presentation.

332 CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Received paper BSC/11/20 "Licensing Report".

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

333 HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE

Received paper BSC/11/21 "*Parliamentary Debate on Animals in Science*"

NOTED

- 333.1 that the sentiment expressed in the debate that the way animals are treated was a measure of civilization was personally endorsed by the Chair;
- 333.2 that the University had put great efforts into explaining the nature and value of the University's use of animals in research to local politicians. This had clearly been successful in counteracting the disinformation promulgated by some animal rights organizations, as evidenced by the statement by one Welsh MP in the debate in describing his recent visit to the University's animal facilities;
- 333.3 that a proposed Public Relations working group on animal issues could be effective in managing situations pro-actively.

334 STATISTICS IN NEUROSCIENCE

Received paper BSC/11/22 "Concern over the Use of Statistics in Neuroscience"

NOTED

334.1 that a recent paper in *Nature Neuroscience* had identified a common mistake in the interpretation and reporting of results in publications on neuroscience research;

334.2 that the issue had been discussed at a recent Users' Group meeting and with the Behavioural Neuroscience Laboratory, and that all those likely to use such statistical analysis had been alerted to this risk. The issue had also been recommended for inclusion in the teaching of statistics and experimental design in PSYCH generally.

335 3Rs DEVELOPMENTS

Received paper BSC/11/23 "*3Rs Developments*"

NOTED

335.1 that whilst some success had been achieved from the efforts of research and animal care staff in providing larger cages for pigeons, the most specious cages had proved counterproductive as the birds had shown some anxiety and reluctance to settle into the behavioural testing regime as a result of the increased space;

335.2 that humans' intuitive assumptions on animal welfare were not always borne out in practice, and that increased space did not always result in improved animal welfare.

336 VISITS BY THE HOME OFFICE INSPECTOR

Received an oral report by the BSO

NOTED

336.1 that there had been two inspection visits since the last meeting, one of which was unannounced;

336.2 that as well as his meeting with the Certificate Holder and with licensees, inspections of facilities S38 Health and Safety had been carried out, and that no issues with animal welfare significance being raised;

336.3 that the inspector had expressed his dismay to learn that a further rainwater leak had occurred S38 Health and Safety and that had the area been designated he would have taken this forward as a serious compliance issue.

337 REPORT FROM THE NAMED VETERINARY SURGEON

Received paper BSC/11/24

NOTED

337.1 that the tail warts found on a small group of mice had been caused by a benign papilloma virus, which was not included in routine screens, and that although there were no animal welfare concerns, the occurrence would be investigated further;

337.2 that the NVS had begun to observe surgical practice in the facilities in relation to the initiative to review standards of asepsis.

338 CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION

Received an oral report by the BSO

NOTED

- 338.1 that only a minor species change in one room S38 Health and Safety had been made since the last meeting, but that this was significant as an indicator of increasing demand for space in the area.

339 ANNUAL REPORT ON SECURITY

Received paper BSC/11/25

NOTED

- 339.1 that that the Deputy Head of Security was to retire in the near future, and that arrangements were in place to ensure continuity with the recruitment of his replacement and ultimately with the retirement of the Head of Security at some point in the future;
- 339.2 that there were few incidents to report this year, and no actual breached of security of facilities had occurred;

RESOLVED

- 339.3 that the Deputy Head of Security be thanked by the Committee for his contributions to the Committee's work over the years and to the security of the facilities.

340 REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR OF JBIOS FACILITIES

Received paper BSC/11/26

NOTED

- 340.1 that the S38 Health and Safety response to the rainwater ingress at the facility had been exemplary;
- 340.2 that another local politician, Bethan Jenkins AM, had visited one of the facilities and met with scientists and animal care staff, but that no feedback had yet been received from her office;

341 REPORT FROM THE USERS' GROUP

Received paper BSC/11/27 and an oral report from the Chair of the Users' Group

NOTED

- 341.1 that the efficiency and transparency from FINCE on animal maintenance charges this year had been gratifying, and that the ODF's reports on comparators in other institutions had been useful and reassuring to users;
- 341.2 that the practice of Schools making new appointments that are likely to have implications for animal services and accommodation without consulting JBIOS or the BSO was understandable, but created significant risks for the University;

- 341.3 that users welcomed working with the NVS and JBIOS staff on reviewing standards of asepsis in surgery, and that the first step had to be an assessment of need, i.e. the incidence of infections associated with surgical procedures;
- 341.4 that the users welcomes the news that progress was being made towards creating workable access arrangements for the S38 Health and Safety
- 341.5 that the current Chair of the Users' Group would step down from that role after the present meeting, and that a new Chair was being sought in time for the March meeting;
- 341.6 that the Group wished to express how important a role membership of the Group and its continuing role was to Schools;

RESOLVED

- 341.7 the Committee's thanks S38 Health and Safety for his long and extremely helpful and valuable role as Chair of the Group.

342 REPORT FROM THE S38 Health and Safety BARRIER FACILITIES

Received paper BSC/11/28 from the barrier representative.

NOTED

- 342.1 that the building work that had necessitated the temporary closure S38 Health and Safety had finally been completed and S38 Health and Safety, and that plans were being made to reoccupy the area;
- 342.2 that a likely delay of several months to the reoccupation had occurred when the ventilation flow had again been reversed inadvertently by engineers, compromising the biosecurity of the area after it had been decontaminated;
- 342.3 that an electrical solution to prevent this kind of human error had been proposed, but that this event reinforced concerns over the capability of the area to contain at-risk genetically altered colonies without compromise.

343 CAPITAL MATTERS AND ESTATES REPORT

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

NOTED

- 343.1 that the replacement of a chiller S38 Health and Safety had been completed as planned;
- 343.2 that additional guttering and an overflow system had been installed S38 Health and Safety. This should prevent any further instance of rainwater ingress into the building as had occurred recently;
- 343.3 that, despite a widespread and reasonable assumption to the contrary, routine inspection of the guttering had not been carried out prior to the incident, which had been attributed to unfortunate circumstances. Since the incident, inspections had been added S38 Health and Safety to be carried out at two-weekly intervals;

- 343.4 that the plans to enable wider access to the S38 Health and Safety facility had been postponed as unworkable, but that enquiries were being carried out to inform a more practical proposal that will facilitate access from as wide a spectrum of research projects as possible without compromising the biosecurity of the adjacent facility;
- 343.5 that it was important that measures were put in place to protect the delicate S38 Health and Safety and ancillary equipment from dust or other causes of damage during alterations work;
- 343.6 that the work to complete the Category 3 facility S38 Health and Safety was expected to be completed in two weeks time, and that the area could be used for Category 3 work after the forthcoming HSE inspection.

344 FACILITIES FOR GENETICALLY ALTERED ANIMALS UPDATE

Received Paper BSC/11/29 "Task Group for the Review of Provisions for Genetically Altered Animal Work at Cardiff University"

NOTED

- 344.1 that the proposal to carry out an independent strategic review in this area had been discussed with the Vice-Chancellor and had his support;
- 344.2 that a Pro-Vice Chancellor had agreed to act as Chair for the review, and that an independent member with experience in this area in other institutions was being sought to provide technical advice to the review;
- 344.3 that terms of reference for the review had been drawn up;
- 344.4 that the deadline for a report from the review to be submitted had been extended to July 2012;
- 344.5 that the opportunity for a second representative from the Users' Group to be co-opted onto the review existed, and that the review was expected to receive technical advice from experienced personnel within the University.

345 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19th March 2012 at 4.00pm

**FILE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2012 AT 4.00PM**

Signed.....(Chair)