

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 19 MARCH 2012 AT 4.00PM**

346 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd Jan 2012 (BSC/11/30) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

347 **MATTERS ARISING**

347.1 House of Commons Debate - proposed University public relations
working group [vide Minute 333.3]

NOTED the Committee's interest in the progress in setting up this group, since it was known that the number of Fol requests was increasing generally and that public interest in the use of animals could be critical to the University.

348 **ITEMS FROM THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER**

Received papers BSC/11/32 "Update on Fol requests", and BSC/11/33 "Response to the Home Office Consultation on the EU Directive Code of Practice".

Update on Fol requests

NOTED

348.1 that the paper was essentially an extract from a wider report on Fol requests received by the Governance Committee;

348.2 that the University's Fol requests on the use of animals had been received exclusively from campaigning groups and journalists rather than members of the public, and that the University's stance on animal use had to be handled carefully;

348.3 that an additional request had been received since the paper had been written, asking for information on the licensed use of animals for teaching purposes. This request had been sent to many other universities by an animal rights group.

RESOLVED

348.4 that the Committee be informed on any further Fol requests as they are received.

Response to the Home Office Consultation on the EU Directive Code of Practice

NOTED

348.5 that the University had responded to the Home Office's consultation request via the Certificate Holder's Advisory Group and individual Project Licence holders;

348.6 that the UK was likely to suffer less under the new Directive's requirements than many other Member States, since the UK standards under ASPA had to a large extent set the targets for the Directive;

- 348.7 that one issue that could affect the University in some areas was the proposed restriction on stocking density in some rat cages, and that the question of the relative sizes of different rat strains was likely to be critical.

RESOLVED

- 348.8 that the issue of rat stocking density be referred to the Users' Group.

349 **PROJECT LICENCE APPLICATION, AMENDMENT TO A PROJECT LICENCE and a CONTINUATION APPLICATION OF A PROJECT LICENCE**

Received paper BSC/11/34 "*Mechanical loading of musculo-skeletal tissue*".

Project Licence Application

NOTED

- 349.1 that the application was from a large research centre within the University, and that the project licence would enable the research to progress and serve the whole research centre, ultimately facilitating a larger group of users across the University;
- 349.2 although it appeared that a relatively large number of mice were proposed to be used on the licence, procedures would only be applied on around one eighth of them. The remainder would be used, as far as possible, as controls and to establish and maintain a tissue bank for wider use;
- 349.3 that although lameness in the animals could be a possible outcome of the work, recognition of pain and the early signs of lameness were central to the project and that this would ensure that animals would not be allowed to suffer;
- 349.4 that, after discussion with the applicants, issues to be addressed on the application were:
- .1 that a photograph or diagram of the loading device would be helpful in the application for the reader to understand more clearly what is proposed;
 - .2 that the maximum time that animals would spend on the treadmill must be stated;
 - .3 that the maximum number of times that the animals would undergo imaging in the MRI must be given, and that it might be useful also to give the "likely" number of times or duration expected.

RESOLVED

- 349.5 that the application be recommended for submission, subject to the applicants satisfactorily addressing the three points above.

Application to Amend a Project Licence

Received BSC/11/35 - amendment of "*Strategies for Brain Repair*"

NOTED

- 349.6 that, after discussion with the applicants, issues to be addressed on the application were:
1. that the application should make clear that the skin graft involved removal of only a partial thickness of skin from the recipient;
 2. that the reason for the use of human skin tissue should be clarified;
 3. that the potential difficulties of bandaging small rodents should be acknowledged in the application and that it should be made clear that the NVS would be involved in advising on this;
 4. that the maximum area (1 cm sq) of graft should be made clear.
- 349.7 that if the Home Office were to decide that the amendment should be submitted as a separate licence application, the Certificate Holder would decide whether a new application to ERP would be necessary.

RESOLVED

- 349.8 that the application be recommended for submission, subject to the applicants satisfactorily addressing the four points above.

Application for a continuation project licence

Received BSC/11/36 -application for "*On the Mechanism of sleep and Absence Epilepsy*"

NOTED

- 349.9 that the application described a large project composed of seven sub-projects, reflecting the size of the research funding it served;
- 349.10 that protocols numbers 9 and 10 proposed work that was new to the University;
- 349.11 that although sleep and absence epilepsy might not appear be in the front line of disorders to be addressed by research, both were in fact central to the understanding of much more serious disorders, such as schizophrenia and learning difficulties;
- 349.12 that, after discussion with the applicant, issues to be addressed on the application were:
1. that the numbers of animals anticipated to be used in the application appeared to be larger than might be anticipated, and that numbers should be a reasonable reflection of the actual size of the proposed work;
 2. that a discrepancy existed in that Protocol 10 included mice, but the summary table of protocols did not;

3. that the Committee advised the applicant to be mindful of cumulative severity where animals undergo multiple optional steps on protocols, even though this was not required on the licence form explicitly.

RESOLVED

- 349.13 that the application be recommended for submission, subject to the applicants satisfactorily addressing points 1 and 2 above in the application, and that point 3 be conveyed to the applicant;
- 349.14 that the project licence holder be informed of the Committee's concerns over the length of time that some animals had been left unused in the holding facility, but that quality of care in compliance with legal requirements was not in question.

350 CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Received paper BSC/11/37 "Licensing Report".

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

351 3Rs DEVELOPMENTS

Received paper BSC/11/38 "3Rs Developments"

NOTED

- 351.1 that the developments described were very welcome and that the practice of sending this report out to licence holders generally was important as an encouragement to them in pursuing further developments in the 3Rs.

352 VISITS BY THE HOME OFFICE INSPECTOR

Received an oral report by the BSO

NOTED

- 352.1 that there had been two inspection visits since the last meeting, one of which was unannounced;
- 352.2 that one visit had been with an inspector for another area who met with scientists and NACWOs to learn how we have developed and apply best practice to food and water restriction;
- 352.3 that the inspector had expressed his concern that refurbishment of the older of S38 Health and Safety areas was still outstanding;
- 352.4 that delays had been partly due to on-going discussion on the role that the newer area would play in a wider University sense, and that a formal decision making process was underway to resolve this;
- 352.5 that ESTAT had plans to upgrade the entrance to the area, and that it would be a missed opportunity if this did not go ahead in April as proposed by ESTAT;

352.6 that the inspector had reported finding eye drops in one facility which were just beyond their expiry date and that this was being dealt with by the research group concerned;

352.7 that the inspector had met with a number of project licence holders and applicants and had audited the procedure records of one research group, finding them satisfactory but adding advice on keeping the records;

RESOLVED

352.8 that the programme for general refurbishment and improvements to the entrance to the S38 Health facility be discussed and progressed outside Committee.

353 REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION.

Received an oral report by the BSO

353.1 NOTED that since the last meeting one laboratory S38 Health and Safety had been designated as a procedure room.

354 REPORT FROM THE NAMED VETERINARY SURGEON

Received an oral report by the NVS

NOTED

354.1 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;

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

354.3 that a suspected incidence of giardia infection S38 Health and Safety was under control, and that a report of mouse hepatitis virus in a facility hitherto regarded as free of the virus had proved to be a false positive screening result;

354.4 that the NVS had increasing concerns about the incidence of viral and other unwelcome micro-organisms on routine screens around the University facilities. The causes could be humans acting as vectors on entering facilities, tissue importation into facilities, or the introduction of live animals from other establishments into facilities, with the last of these being the most risk-laden;

354.5 that whilst micro-biological screens were always required and checked prior to the importation of live animals, screen results were only a snapshot in time of a very small sample of animals and could easily report false negatives.

354.6 that whilst importing embryos provided the best solution, this was often not possible even from research institutes with the highest reputations, and that the University would need to operate a quarantine facility for imports to avoid further deterioration of the health status of its colonies;

- 354.7 that although the costs of providing and managing such a facility were relatively high, this must be weighed against the risks to the University and, potentially, the welfare of its animals.

RESOLVED

- 354.8 that the NVS and ODF work with the BSO to frame questions on health status in relation to importation and quarantining of animals for the forthcoming independent strategic review on accommodation for genetically altered animals.

355 ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH & SAFETY

Received paper BSC/11/39 from JBIOS and an oral report on S38 Health and Safety facility from BIOSI.

NOTED

- 355.1 that a trial of "Aerocide" equipment to control allergens in JBIOS facilities had proved worthwhile and that the equipment had been adopted on a lease basis. A more sophisticated system involving equipment set into ventilation ducts was currently under consideration;
- 355.2 that JBIOS and BIOSI were working with OSHEU on face-fitting of masks for respiratory protection, and that it had recently been learned that the HSE had upgraded their requirements for the type of masks used to FFP3 from FFP2, although no evidential basis for this change was apparent;
- 355.3 that JBIOS was working with HRSHE to implement a system of security screening of new recruits in JBIOS and that it was hoped that this could be extended to user schools;
- 355.4 that management responsibilities for the Category 3 laboratory to be used S38 Health and Safety within the JBIOS area had been agreed using risk assessments with OSHEU to inform the exercise;
- 355.5 that the performance table now included data from users schools and showed very low incidences of accidents or other problems;
- 355.6 that no accidents had been reported S38 Health and Safety facility in the last twelve months. The area had a fire warden, a First Aider, and two PAT testers on its staff and internal inspections were routinely carried out.

356 REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR OF JBIOS FACILITIES

Received paper BSC/11/40

NOTED

- 356.1 that interviews for new staff were scheduled for 23 March;
- 356.2 that some cage cleaning stations were being replaced for health and safety reasons;
- 356.3 that the inclusion of a session explaining the use of animals in medical research had consistently showed benefits in helping to redress the imbalance of information normally encountered by young people on experimental animals;

356.4

357 **REPORT FROM THE USERS' GROUP**

Received paper BSC/11/41 and an oral report from the Chair of the Users' Group

NOTED

357.1 that this was the first meeting of the Committee of the new Chair of the Users' Group, and that the Chair welcomed him onto the Committee;

357.2 that other changes to membership had been introduced at the same time;

357.3 that the Group considered that timely communication of intentions to make new appointments by schools was vital that new appointees are not disappointed in the type and extent of animal facilities available to them, and to ensure that existing research groups did not lose out in continuing to have the facilities they needed. This was particularly relevant at present with the new "Brain Power" recruitment initiative under way;

357.4 that the new Chair of the Group looked forward to working with the NVS to resolve a number of recent relevant issues for users, such as improvements in mouse handling and asepsis in surgical procedures.

RESOLVED

357.5 the Certificate Holder would raise the communication issue on new appointments with the University Management Board.

358 **REPORT FROM S38 Health and Safety FACILITIES**

Received oral report from the BIOSI Technical Manager.

NOTED

358.1 that the operations remained S38 Health and Safety and that staffing was unchanged over the last year;

358.2 S38 Health and Safety had recently given presentations at the RSPCA event on genetically altered animals and the 3Rs in Edinburgh;

358.3 that there had been a slight reduction in animal numbers S38 Health due to cryopreservation of lines that had been carried out;

358.4 that there were remaining problems which were complicating the reopening of S38 Health and facility.

359 CAPITAL MATTERS AND ESTATES REPORT

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

NOTED

359.1 that a fault in S38 Health and Safety ventilation system had been located and that the control systems were being reviewed;

359.2 that the new humidification system for S38 Health and Safety was being fitted and would be in use in the next few days;

359.3 S38 Health and Safety

360 FACILITIES FOR GENETICALLY ALTERED ANIMALS UPDATE

Received Paper BSC/11/42 "*Task Group for the Provision of Facilities for Genetically Altered Animals*"

NOTED

360.1 that the terms of reference document had been revised and that arrangements for the first meeting to include visits to existing unused facilities were under way;

361 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21st May 2012 at 4.30pm.

**FILE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 19th MARCH 2012 IN AT 4.00PM**

Signed.....(Chair)