

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21 MAY 2012 AT 4.30PM

362 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2012 (BSC/11/43) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

363 MATTERS ARISING

363.1 Project Licensing Applications [vide Minutes 349. 5, 349.8, 349.13, 349.14]

NOTED

- .1 that the applicants had been informed of the need to amend the applications in line with the Committee's recommendations for submission to the Home Office;
- .2 that the applicant for a continuation licence had been informed of the Committee's concern over the length of time that some animals were being kept before use, and that the applicant had established plans to use them with the NACWO;
- .3 that immediately prior to the meeting, the inspector had signaled concerns over aspects of Protocol 9, and that the applicant would address this immediately in order to avoid a gap between expiry and relicensing.

363.2 Visits from the Home Office Inspector - refurbishment of the facility [vide Minute 352.8]

NOTED

- .1 that discussions to progress the refurbishment had been held, but that emerging problems with existing ventilation were now being dealt with;
- .2 that a two-year old design had been revisited to integrate the work with the creation of a new entrance area;
- .3 that although the contractors were on site, ESTAT were concerned to ensure that any work would not disrupt the ventilation arrangement S38 Health and Safety, which would be critical for both radiological and animal health protection perspectives;
- .4 that there would be a meeting on site within a few days to try to find a way forward that would not cause future problems with ventilation.

363.3 Report from the Users' Group - communication issue [vide Minute 357.7]

NOTED that the Certificate Holder had raised the importance of early discussions with potential appointees on animal facilities with those managing the "serious Brain Power" initiative.

363.4 Capital Matters and Estates – location of a new bus stop [vide Minute 359.3]

NOTED

363.5 Capital Matters and Estates S38 Health ventilation [vide Minute 359.1]

NOTED that the remedial work to the ventilation system S38 Health had been completed.

363.6 Capital Matters and Estates S38 Health and Safety humidification [vide Minute 359.2]

NOTED that the work to replace the humidifier S38 Health and Safety facility had been completed.

364 **ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

364.1 NOTED that the representative of the graduate students was leaving the University for a post-doctoral post at another University and that the Committee was grateful to her for her work during her membership of the Committee;

RESOLVED

364.2 that the graduate students seek to appoint a replacement representative for the next session.

365 **ITEMS FROM THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER**

Received papers BSC/11/45 “Recent Fol requests”.

NOTED

365.1 that the paper was in response to the Committees request to see the latest requests under Freedom of Information legislation and responses to them at each meeting;

365.2 that the University was careful to obey the law in respect of Fol requests on the use of animals, and equally careful in how the responses were compiled by, for example, not answering questions that perhaps were implied but not explicitly constructed by requestors;

365.3 that recent requests had not been directed solely at the University but had been part of a national campaign to universities throughout the UK.

366 **PROJECT LICENCE APPLICATION**

Received paper BSC/11/46 “*Functional characterization of neural stem cells*”.

NOTED

366.1 that the application was from an established researcher newly appointed from another establishment;

- 366.2 that although the scientific value of the licence was high, the type of work was familiar to the Committee and did not present any apparent difficulties;
- 366.3 that although the application raised the possibility of the use of immune compromised animals, this was not anticipated and had been included merely as a safeguard;
- 366.4 that, after discussion with the applicant, minor items to be addressed on the application were:
- .1 that some measurement units had been omitted from the table describing injection routes and volumes;
 - .2 that the use of skin clips for wound repair in Protocol 2 should include the need to remove the clips seven to ten days post-operatively;

RESOLVED

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

367 CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Received paper BSC/11/47 "Licensing Report".

NOTED

- 367.1 that since the last meeting, the Certificate Holder's Advisory Group had recommended one application for amendments to an existing project licence and two applications for continuation project licences;
- 367.2 that it was understood that economies being undertaken in the Home Office, including the closure of regional offices and reduction of site visits by inspectors, were likely to impact negatively on establishments, with less contact with the inspectors, a less helpful approach in reviewing applications, and a generally slower and less well informed service in the administrative processing of applications.

368 3Rs DEVELOPMENTS

Received paper BSC/11/48 "3Rs Developments"

RESOLVED

- 368.1 that an annual review of 3Rs developments be brought to the Committee, informed where necessary by Schools for developments in replacement outside the field of animal use;
- 368.2 that the Users' Group be asked to make comment on the concept of animals requiring warmer conditions than usually assumed.

369 VISITS BY THE HOME OFFICE INSPECTOR

Received an oral report by the BSO

NOTED

- 369.1 that there had been one inspection visit since the last meeting, during which the inspector discussed licensing matters with several groups of scientists and visited S38 Health and Safety with a view to designation. Minor areas for attention had been brought to the attention of ESTAT.

370 **REPORT FROM THE NAMED VETERINARY SURGEON**

Received an oral report by the NVS

NOTED

- 370.1 that the NVS has refused approximately one request per week to import animals into the University's facilities because their health screen profiles included pathogens that would endanger the University's own health profile;

371 **REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION.**

Received an oral report by the BSO

- 371.1 NOTED that since the last meeting three procedure rooms in the Building had been removed from the Certificate.

372 **ANNUAL REPORT ON EDUCATION & TRAINING**

Received paper BSC/11/49

NOTED

- 372.1 that the last year had shown high level of activity and success in licensee training and that the team providing this training should be credited with this success;
- 372.2 that the enthusiasm for professional training amongst the JBIOS technicians had resulted in high levels of achievement in the last year;
- 372.3 that information on education and training S38 Health and Safety would be brought to the Committee at the next meeting;

373 **REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR OF JBIOS FACILITIES**

Received paper BSC/11/50

NOTED

- 373.1 that security screening for HND students from outside the University was being paid for by JBIOS as a recruitment opportunity;
- 373.2 that a change in policy thinking S38 Health and Safety could result in the opening of the non-barrier areas S38 Health and Safety in the near future. Whilst tight control on access of animals and people would be operated, there would not be any requirement for rederivation into the area;

- 373.3 that designation of the area could be applied for as soon as some small remedial items were attended to by ESTAT, and that the opening of this area would facilitate the refurbishment of the S38 Health and Safety
- 373.4 that JBIOS was collaborating with OSHEU and relevant schools to produce a single risk assessment on the use of the fork lift truck on pavements with public access;
- 373.5 that a finance review for expenditure in 2013-14 had proposed that increased spending on staffing, which had largely been frozen in recent years, would be justified, and that the review could be shared with relevant Heads of Schools.

374 **REPORT FROM THE USERS' GROUP**

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

NOTED

- 374.1 that a meeting of the Users' Group was scheduled for 31 May, timed to enable the users' input into the GAA Strategic review to be discussed and clarified;
- 374.2 that the requirements of the new EU legislation on cage stocking density for rats could cause problems for a small fraction of rat use, and that this will be discussed further by users and reported on if necessary.

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

Received paper BSC/11/51

NOTED

- 375.1 that S38 Health and Safety area had been out of action for almost three years and that the staff there were eagerly anticipating an outcome from the Strategic Review that would clarify its future;
- 375.2 that a 3Rs development in colony management had resulted in the reduction of a breeding programme by approximately half, and has eliminated the need to carry out genotyping biopsy procedures.

376 **CAPITAL MATTERS AND ESTATES REPORT**

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

NOTED

- 376.1 that work to be carried out on the ventilation system serving the area S38 Health and Safety could impact on the proposed opening for business of S38 Health and Safety non-barrier area; S38 Health and Safety
- 376.2 that the problems with S38 Health and Safety ventilation systems had been traced back to a fire override switch. This could be dealt with when the proposed improvements S38 Health and Safety were carried out;

376.3 that the new humidification system S38 Health and Safety was now largely working.

377 **QUARANTINE AND OTHER BIO-CONTAINMENT QUESTIONS**

Received Paper BSC/11/52

NOTED

377.1 that the paper posed questions aimed at the forthcoming GAA facilities Strategic Review ;

377.2 that regular and rigorous screening for pathogens was a critical factor in ensuring the successful management of GAA colonies, and that in-house screening was a possibility that was currently being looked at as a means to provide this;

377.3 that S38 Health and Safety representative would resend a proposal for screening;

377.4 S38 Health and Safety

377.5 that the need for quarantine facilities was generally acknowledged, but that this was a complex concept, since the potential for multiple knock-on effects for other areas was great and costs were likely to be high;

377.6 that there was a need for urgency in resolving all the issues S38 Health and Safety and that the Strategic Review should be urged to expedite its discussions into recommendations without delay

RESOLVED

377.7 that members of the Committee be offered the opportunity to visit some or all of the facilities before the next session.

378 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

**FILE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 MAY 2012 AT 4.00PM**

Signed.....(Chair)