

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 6th DECEMBER 2010 AT 4.00PM

260 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2010 (BSC/10/14) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

261 **MATTERS ARISING**

261.1 Matters arising - S38 Health and Safety re improvements [*vide* Minute 243.1]

NOTED that the likely cost had been estimated at £360k, but the fire authorities were currently looking at the plans for possible alternative escape routes.

261.2 Matters arising - environmental alarms testing S38 Health and Safety [*vide* Minute 243.3.2]

NOTED that an arrangement had been made S38 Health and Safety to provide unannounced tests of the alarm systems at around three-monthly intervals.

261.3 Matters arising - Universities' Legal Briefing [*vide* Minute 243.4.2]

that a draft document would be presented at Agendum 5.3 under the report from the Certificate Holder.

261.4 Matters arising - Refurbishment of older S38 Health and Safety facility [*vide* Minute 243.8]

NOTED that two possible schemes had been considered and that a response was expected from ESTAT in the following week.

261.5 Certificate of Designation changes [*vide* Minute 246.2]

NOTED that the two procedure rooms that had been temporarily de-designated following ingress of rainwater had been redesignated.

261.6 Report on the need for quarantine facilities [*vide* Minute 247.4]

NOTED that the report on the need for quarantine facilities from the users would be presented at a subsequent meeting.

261.7 Progress on replacing a humidification system [*vide* Minute 251.2]

NOTED that the system still had not been replaced and that the tender request had been delayed, but had now gone out.

261.8 Use of animals and project output [*vide* Minute 253.3]

NOTED

.1 that it appeared unlikely that a valid method of relating animal use to output in terms of research publications would be possible. This was because there would often be a lengthy lag between end of project and publication of results, and also because of the wide variations in, for example, species, type of research, and quality of publication;

- .2 that the use of animals crossed over between project licences, and that work on the same research theme often spanned a number of project licence periods, sometimes following the career of a scientist.

RESOLVED

- .3 that the retrospective review exercise be revised to reflect long-term outputs of research, and to attempt to capture any practical therapeutic developments that might have ultimately emerged from fundamental research projects.

261.9 The Committee's ethical focus [*vide* Minute 254.2]

NOTED that the BSO's proposal would be presented at Agendum 4 under Items from the Chair.

261.10 ARRIVE Guidelines for reporting research [*vide* Minute 255.3]

- .1 NOTED that the guidelines had been circulated to all project licence holders and discussed with the Chair of the Users' Group and that no significant objection to introducing the guidelines as standard practice had been received.

261.11 Project Licence application [*vide* Minute 255.4]

NOTED that the application had been amended in response to the Committee's comments and had recently been submitted.

262 **ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

262.1 NOTED that the Chair welcomed two new members to the Committee representing graduate students and non-NACWO animal technicians.

262.2 NOTED that the Chair had visited and been impressed by facilities S38 Health and Safety

262.3 Alternative Agenda Structure

Received paper BSC/10/16 "Alternative Agenda Structure"

NOTED

- .1 that a need to increase the Committee's focus on core ethical issues had been identified in the analysis of the Committee's work and terms of reference [*vide* Minute 254], and that the alternative agenda structure attempted to address this need;
- .2 that the proposed agenda moved ethical issues towards the beginning of the meeting, allowed licence applicants to be present, was in line with human ethical committees and RSPCA guidelines, and made clear what action was expected for each agendum;
- .3 that members might wish to have some questions given to applicants prior to the meeting;
- .4 that the more general ethical topics might benefit from having time scheduled to them at some of the meetings;

RESOLVED

- .5 that the proposed changes to the agenda be adopted, with the possibility of amending on review, and with consideration given to the opportunities for more general ethical topics to be discussed.

263

ITEMS FROM THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Received paper BSC/10/17 "The EU Directive and the Future of ERP" and paper BSC/10/18 "Formal Undertaking for Access by Users".

263.1

The EU Directive and the Future of ERP**NOTED**

- .1 that the Directive 2010/63/EU was now EU law and would be implemented in UK law on 1 January 2013, and that the transposition process into UK law would be critical;
- .2 that a Home Office consultation on transposition would begin in January, and that the University would be able to contribute to this;
- .3 that the UK legislature was unlikely to act to diminish animal welfare provisions, and that the current imbalance of such provisions across member states was not reflected in the location of animal based research centres;
- .4 that, under the Directive, the analogue of the Ethical Review Process would be called the Animal Welfare Body which, it was felt, better reflected the primary animal welfare role of the Committee;
- .5 that the Directive's requirements for the Animal Welfare Body fell well short of the current requirements, but that need not diminish what provisions the University decided to maintain;
- .6 that the local Home Office inspector and the Head of the Home Office's ASPD would be in the University on 7 December to explain and answer questions on the new Directive;
- .7 that the possibility of significantly less contact with the inspectorate under the requirements of the Directive was of serious concern;

RESOLVED

- .8 that the Certificate Holders Advisory Group be convened to advise the Certificate Holder on the University's response in the consultation process.

263.2

Formal Undertaking for Access by Users**NOTED**

- .1 that the formal undertaking, as advised by the Universities' Legal Briefing, had been inserted into the existing access request form for animal facilities, and that this form had been

revised to increase the security element and allow it to be applied consistently across the University;

- .2 that the occupational health service were concerned that non-compliance with health screening requirements ought to result in loss of access to facilities and that it should be made clear who should be contacted in the case of non-compliance;

RESOLVED

- .3 that all personnel who have access rights, including maintenance workers, should be required to use the form and sign the undertaking;
- .4 that guidance notes be added to the form;
- .5 that a protocol for non-compliance be drawn up and implemented with the form.

263.3 Freedom of Information Requests

NOTED

- .1 that an internal review of one response had been conducted by the Director of Human Resources, but that currently this had not been accepted by the requestor;
- .2 that a new request had been received and a response was being prepared;
- .3 that the misconceptions implied by requests to this and other universities indicated that there was a clear need to educate the public on the use of animals in science and its benefits and controls;
- .4 that a visit was planned for the Deputy Leader of Cardiff City Council and possibly other councillors with the aim of correcting any misconceptions and allowing them to see the necessity, quality, and benefits of the work.

264 **REPORT FROM THE BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS OFFICER**

Received papers BSC/10/19 "Licensing Report" and oral reports.

264.1 Visits by the Home Office Inspector

NOTED

- .1 that there had been three visits from the inspector since the last meeting, the most recent being unannounced;
- .2 that the inspector had met with a number of Project Licence holders and applicants, and had inspected designated areas over the visits, including procedure rooms outwith the main facilities;
- .3 that minor deteriorations had been seen adjacent to the newly designated hose-down area in one facility, and these must be dealt with;

- .4 that the inspector had signaled his likely intention to begin auditing records.

264.2 Changes to the Certificate of Designation

NOTED

- .1 that the two procedure rooms within a user school that had been temporarily de-designated after rainwater ingress had been reinstated on the Certificate following remedial work
- .2 that minor changes to the designation of two facilities had been made for hose-down areas for washing new, larger cages;
- .3 that the inspector had inspected a specialized area in a school for designation, but his resulting queries had not been responded to by the applicant.

264.3 Licensing Report

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

265 **REPORT FROM THE NAMED VETERINARY SURGEON**

Received paper BSC/10/20 "NVS Report for BSC".

NOTED

- 265.1 that some confusing results for mouse hepatitis virus had been received following screening, and follow-up screens showed that this was most likely to have been a false positive result for the virus;
- 265.2 that the exercise to eliminate roundworm S38 Health and Safety by the use of medicated food had proved successful;
- 265.3 that a "ring test" using several laboratories around the UK had shown that a mouse parvovirus infection recently found in many UK facilities could have originated with an animal supplier. This underlines the need not to make any assumptions in animal health matters, and in areas where bio-contamination would be critical, animals must always be rederived into facilities;

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

Received paper BSC/10/21 from the Operational Director of JBIOS Facilities.

NOTED

- 266.1 that there was concern about a proposal for non-animal use of the Category 3 S38 Health and Safety which would extend into the sterilized phase of the new facility with animals present. It was widely felt that this would represent an unacceptable risk to the bio-containment status of the area;
- 266.2 that the construction of hosing facilities for large cages at locations had been completed, and that the contractor's work had been exemplary;

- 266.3 that the proposal to improve the entrance arrangements to the older facility now has a project manager, and plans have been drawn up. Drainage has been identified as a potential problem, and is being investigated. The refurbishment plans for the facility are being revisited to fit in with this work;
- 266.4 that revised quotation on the deep clean exercise for the newer facility are being sought;
- 266.5 that demand for licensee training courses had been at unprecedented levels, but all applicants had been accommodated by reorganisation of teaching arrangements;
- 266.6 that continuing discussions with users and user schools are planned for January in preparation for the new maintenance charges to be introduced in February, and to attempt to resolve the problem of deficit

S38 Health and Safety

267 **REPORT FROM THE USERS' GROUP**

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

NOTED

- 267.1 that the Chair of the Users' Group was about to launch the survey of users to test concerns on possible anomalies in maintenance charging;
- 267.2 that the survey's deadline prior to the Christmas break would allow the results to be analysed and used in discussions in January prior to the new charges being implemented in February;
- 267.3 that discussions on the access to and use of the pre-clinical continued, and that a draft SOP had been circulated and commented upon.

S38 Health and Safety

RESOLVED

- 267.4 that the results of the maintenance charges survey be reported at the next meeting.

268 **REPORT FROM** **ARRIER FACILITIES**

S38 Health and Safety

Received paper BSC/10/22 from the barrier representative.

NOTED

- 268.1 that environmental conditions had been more stable;

S38 Health and Safety

268.2

S38 Health and Safety

269 **CAPITAL MATTERS AND ESTATES REPORT**

Received an oral report from the Director of Estates Development (Architectural) and an oral report from the Director of Estates Development (Engineering).

NOTED

- 269.1 that hose-down cage washing facilities in two areas had been completed;

- 269.2 that the refurbishment of laboratories to ASPA designation standards adjacent to one of the facilities had been completed and that users may be able to move in during January;
- 269.3 that quarterly unannounced alarm tests S38 Health and Safety had been arranged;
- 269.4 that the planning application for the new building in the area was still pending.

270 **ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT**

Received paper BSC/10/23.

NOTED

- 270.1 that there had been no significant security issues in the last year;
- 270.2 that some concerns over the difficulty of controlling access in one building would be eased now that a building project had been completed and the access kept open for contractors could be secured;
- 270.3 that a security forum S38 Health and Safety had been held in October, with a wide range of issues covered satisfactorily, S38 Health and Safety S38 Health and Safety
- 270.4 that the sensitivity and potential implications of security matters would be explained to visitors to facilities, and that they would be expected to respect the need for confidentiality about these areas;
- 270.5 that where undergraduates carried out practical work in facilities, there was a formal process within schools to explain security issues to them along with legal and health and safety requirements.

271 **NOTES FROM THE ERP LAYMEMBERS' FORUM**

Received paper BSC/10/24 and an oral report from the Deputy Chair.

NOTED

- 271.1 that her attendance at the recent lay members' forum had been worthwhile;
- 271.2 that members should be aware of the usefulness of the NC3Rs website and newsletters;
- 271.3 that the retrospective review of project licences could be an area in which valuable developments could be made;

271.4 that the Deputy Chair's attendance at the forum had clearly been valuable and was appreciated by the Committee.

272 **TAMING ANXIETY IN LABORATORY MICE**

Received paper BSC/10/25 for information

273 **FOI AND ASPA REPORTS**

274 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

28th March 2011 at 4.00pm

**FILE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2010 AT 4.00PM**

Signed.....(Chair)