

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
25 January 2016

Present: 10 members were present at the meeting with 1 person in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 4 members.

Minutes

15/22 The minutes of the meeting on 20th November 2015 were received and approved.

Matters Arising

Received paper AWERC/15/09

15/23 The Committee was told that questions relating to genetically altered animal (GAA) breeding had been incorporated into the mid-term and final project licence (PPL) review forms.

Review of Membership

Received paper AWERC/15/10

15/24 The Chair proposed that there should be no changes to membership unless particular expertise was thought to be lacking. The Committee agreed that no immediate changes would be necessary.

Establishment Licence Holder's Report

15/25 The Establishment Licence (PEL) Holder reported that there had been one Condition 18 report made to the Home Office at the end of 2015 to report that the severity limit had been exceeded in one mouse (see M15/28 below).

15/26 Progress on a number of issues previously discussed by the Committee was reported, including local approval for the purchase of individually ventilated cages (IVCs) for the facility at ; the "openness" web pages being developed in order to be more transparent about animal research which were close to being launched; Personal Licence (PIL) conversions which had now been completed in the Animal Scientific Procedures e-Licensing system (ASPeL) and the University's involvement, as an "early adopter", in the pilot for submitting Project Licences (PPLs) in ASPeL.

15/27 The Home Office document "*Identification and management of patterns of low-level concerns at licensed establishments*" which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting was discussed. The document was thought to be useful for encouraging good practice and it was agreed that this should be used as a prompt for review and reflection by the Committee and for any concerns to be raised. Low level concerns would be added to the Agenda twice a year. The Schedule of Business would be updated accordingly.

ACTION: Administrator.

NVS's Report

15/28 With regard to the Condition 18 report (see M15/25 above) the NVS reported that one of a group of 6 mice on a moderate protocol had exceeded the severity limit. As a post-mortem had not been performed the Condition 18 report had been submitted to the Home Office. So far no further action had been taken by the Home Office. No signs of adverse effects (e.g. weight loss, inactivity or loss of body condition) had been seen in the animal prior to the event and whilst no further action was required it was expected that the Inspector may wish to speak to the NVS, NACWO and PIL holder on the next visit.

15/29 Secondary availability for a PPL with a severe protocol was currently being discussed and if agreed this would require amendment of the PPL.

15/30 The Home Office were still considering the way in which they would inspect and use the GAA tool (previously circulated).

15/31 Building work for the imaging facility was expected to commence in April with a view to the facility being operational by the end of the year and the work on relocating the wind tunnel was due to start in February.

ULBS Report

Received paper AWERC/15/11

15/32 No significant operational problems were reported and the units were working well under a single management.

15/33 Meetings with two suppliers which had submitted tenders to supply an integrated unit management IT system were due to take place shortly and it was hoped that a decision on which system to purchase could be made soon.

15/34 The matter of unit staffing hours would be raised at the next ULBS meeting.

Review of Schedule of Business

Received paper AWERC/15/12

15/35 The Schedule of Business was received for information and this would be updated following the meeting.

ASC AWERB Regional Hubs

Received paper AWERC/15/13

15/36 The Committee agreed to reply to the Chair of the Animals in Science Committee (ASC) to confirm that the University's AWERB would be happy to participate in the North of England Hub and would look forward to receiving further information in due course. **ACTION: Administrator.**

PPL Mid-term Reviews

MR003

15/37 The Committee agreed that the PPL holder had provided a clear indication of progress in relation to the objectives of the PPL and that there had been no welfare issues. It was acknowledged that work was also being done on in-vitro models and other tissues to reduce animal use. One issue raised by the PPL holder was the difficulty in finding information on CPD for the PIL holders working on the project and the Committee was told that this information should be more readily available once an integrated IT system had been purchased and training, supervision, competence and CPD details entered by the licensees.

MR004

15/38 The Committee acknowledged the PPL holder's concerted efforts to use in vitro and tissue culture strategies where possible to avoid animal studies and the involvement of a biostatistician to help with refinement of experimental design. It was noted that there had been no animal welfare concerns in relation to the project.

MR005

15/39 The Committee noted the use of alternative methods to reduce the use of animals in the project and agreed that there had been no animal welfare concerns.

MR006

15/40 The Committee noted that no work had been done under the project due to changes in staff and funding issues.

MR007

15/41 There were no concerns arising from the review of the project. The NVS advised that the PPL holder was involved in discussions regarding suitable space for the work to continue following unit closure.

PPL Final Review

FR001

- 15/42 The Committee noted that work under the project was being done by experienced unit staff and that there had been no animal welfare concerns. As the attachment to the review form had not been circulated it was agreed that this review should be re-circulated with the attachment. **ACTION: Administrator.**
- 15/43 The Committee acknowledged the benefit to PPL holders in having to complete an interim review which provided an opportunity for them to evaluate their work in terms of the 3Rs and to reflect on whether any changes and improvements could be made to animal welfare and to further the 3Rs. In general it was agreed that the review form would benefit from a lay summary including information about whether the project objectives had been met and that information in the Lay Members' Handbook, might be used to direct and improve content of the form. It was also suggested that, in future, PPL holders who make use of the units' technical services should be encouraged to seek information from the staff concerned in order to complete the review. It was agreed that the form should be amended and circulated for consideration and comment before the next meeting. **ACTION: Administrator/all.**

Amendments

15/44 *Received paper AWERC/15/14*

- 15/45 Three applications for amendments to PPLs had been received and fast-tracked since the last meeting. Two of these had been approved by the Home Office with one still pending the Inspector's decision.

Other Business

AWERB UK meeting – Delivering an effective AWERB – Challenges and Solutions

- 15/46 The notification of a Forum for AWERB members, organised by the RSPCA, LASA, LAVA and the IAT had been previously circulated. In response to a question from a member, regarding support for attendance at this meeting, it was agreed that funding would be available for one member to attend.

Date of Next Meeting

- 15/47 The Committee was told that the date of the next meeting had been changed and that this would now take place on 13th April 2016. Further changes were expected to be made to the meetings scheduled for May and November and members would be updated once the dates had been finalised. **ACTION: Chair and Administrator.**