

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
27 January 2017

Present: 13 members were present at the meeting with 2 people in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 5 members.

The Home Office Inspector was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Minutes

16/58 The minutes of the meeting on 25 November 16 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received AWERC16/11

The update on actions was received for information.

16/59 A correction to the animal numbers submitted as part of project licence mid-term review MR12 had been received and were noted by the Committee.

16/60 The PEL holder had provided an update to the University Council regarding animal welfare at (min 16/49) and reported that Council had been satisfied with the arrangements.

PPL applications

A330

16/61 The NVS provided some background to the application and asked the Committee to note that this required further editorial work. The applicant was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to the Committee and asked to explain the proposals.

16/62 The particular techniques to be used and their potential effect on animal welfare were discussed, including the use of taller cages to accommodate animals and give them more space following procedures; constant post-surgery monitoring until recovery; and the routine use of analgesia. Refinements to the techniques that had been introduced as a result of previous experience were also discussed. The Committee agreed that the application should be submitted to the Home Office subject to the draft being finalised to the satisfaction of the NVS. **ACTION: NVS.**

16/63 Changes to the lay paragraph to include more specific information were suggested. It was agreed that the NVS should assist the applicant with making these amendments and the Chair agreed to review the final summary paragraph. **ACTION: NVS and Chair.**

A331

16/64 The Committee was told that the application was to undertake work associated with the transfer of grant funding from the US which had been discussed at meetings during 2016. The applicant was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to the Committee and asked to explain the proposed work.

16/65 Aspects discussed included work to be carried out under terminal anaesthesia at the end of each experimental protocol and close monitoring and arrangements for timely intervention should an animal show signs of ill health. The rationale for two different methods of giving heat stress to animals in one protocol were discussed. The applicant was advised to discuss the practicalities associated with these procedures with the NACWO.

16/66 The Committee agreed that with minor changes to the application and the lay summary paragraph and with clarification to satisfy the NVS of the need for the two proposed methods the application could be submitted to the Home Office. **ACTION: NVS.**

PPL amendments and reviews

16/67 No amendments had been submitted since the last meeting.

Mid-term review

MR18

16/68 The mid-term review concerned a licence with two protocols under which 300 mice had been requested but only 8 used, the NVS explained that this had been due to funding running out. However, further funding was expected shortly. The Committee was satisfied that, despite the low number of animals used, previous experience had been included in the review and the licence should remain in place so that work could continue once funding had been secured.

FR19

16/69 The Committee was told that the work under the licence had moved neuroscience research forward during the last 5 years and that, apart from two unexpected deaths (previously reported to the Home Office under condition 18), no problems had been encountered. Matters discussed included the good working relationship that had been developed between the group and the animal care and veterinary staff to ensure animal welfare.

Establishment Licence (PEL) holder's update

16/70 The PEL holder reported that there had been one condition 18 report since the last meeting where a mouse had been found dead as a result of conflict with cage mates. This had been reported to the Home Office and no further action was necessary.

16/71 Work was being done to set up the web pages with information that the Committee had previously agreed to.

NVS's update

16/72 The NVS advised that the previous months had been extremely busy, in particular with the drafting of new project licence applications.

16/73 It was reported that the Northern AWERB hub had agreed to split due to its size since another establishment had volunteered to act as another host. The University would remain with the existing hub to which it had originally been allocated. The Chair asked to be informed of the next Northern Hub meeting date. **ACTION: NVS.**

Review of Membership

(Received papers AWERC/16/12 and AWERC/06/13 for information)

16/74 The Committee agreed to one minor change to the Terms of Reference and to two membership changes.

16/75 It was agreed that the Committee would conduct a broad review of membership at the meeting in July. Members were asked to consider the potential for new and different approaches. The possibility of inviting a librarian was suggested. **ACTION: ALL.**

ULBS Report

16/76 The Committee received a summary of business from two ULBS meetings which had taken place. This included changes to the ULBS terms of reference and membership; Estates Services issues; work to set up the new integrated unit management IT system which was now underway; and feedback from users.

16/77 It was reported that the Users' Group had also met in December with the group reformatted to meet quarterly and to encourage feedback from major research groups.

Matters discussed included the development of the facility; training demands; space issues on the site; and concerns regarding strategic planning.

Review of Schedule of Business

Received AWERC/16/14

16/78 The updated Schedule of Business was received for information and would be updated to include a broad review of membership (*Min 16/75*). **ACTION: Administrator.**

AWERB as a “Forum for Discussion”

Received AWERC/16/15 for information

16/79 The committee agreed to schedule this for a future meeting in order to go through the suggested actions. **ACTION: Administrator.**

Other Business

16/80 The NVS reported on the success of a meeting hosted by the University in conjunction with the NC3Rs. The Chair asked to be invited if a similar event should be planned in future. **ACTION: NVS.**

16/81 The Committee was told that two University 3Rs initiatives had recently been reported by the NC3Rs; SEARCHBreast, concerned with the sharing of animal tissues; and an NC3Rs funded PhD studentship to consider alternative methods in bladder cancer research.

16/82 The NVS reported that the Home Office Inspector had conducted a visit to the new preclinical imaging facilities and one animal facility in which no concerns were raised

16/83 The Chair proposed that another site visit should be arranged to enable lay members to see a procedure and to meet with unit staff. **ACTION: Unit Manager and Administrator.**

16/84 A paper had been produced to illustrate the relationship between the Animals in Science Committee, AWERB hubs and AWERB-UK. This would be circulated to members for information. **ACTION: Administrator.**

Date of next meeting

16/85 The next meeting would be held at 0900 on Tuesday 21 March.