

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
13 April 2016

Present: 8 members were present at the meeting with 1 person in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 6 members.

Minutes

15/48 The minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2016 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received AWERC/15/15

15/49 The update on actions was received for information and it was noted that all action points had been followed up.

NACWOs' Report

Received AWERC/15/16

15/50 The NACWO advised that Committee that there had been little to report on this occasion. Matters highlighted from the report included an increase in the use of facilities on both sites following recent recruitment of research staff. Staff-work ratios were discussed in relation to this and the NACWO advised that the technical guidance for animal husbandry would continue to be followed along with close monitoring of any increase in demand for specialist skills and services.

15/51 The Committee was told that the new IVCs had been delivered and that the programme for transferring animals over to these should be completed within two weeks. This was being done gradually and in consultation with PIs to minimise any adverse effects on the animals and/or impact on research.

15/52 It was also reported that the procurement process for selecting an IT system had concluded with one preferred supplier/system being agreed. Both Faculties had confirmed their support of the additional cost of this system so the only outstanding matters were to do with IT testing requirements which would be discussed and arranged with the supplier.

15/53 The NACWO reported that unit staff had appreciated the recent visit by the Chair to both facilities. The Chair was pleased to report that staff were very caring and engaged and that a lot had been learned from the visits.

Annual Statistical Report

Received AWERC/15/17

15/54 Animal use during 2015 had remained at a similar level to 2014. The NVS acknowledged that any increase resulting from new appointments would show in the 2016 data.

15/55 The number of new personal and project licences had also begun to increase as a result of the new research appointments.

15/56 The Committee discussed arrangements for unregulated work at the University and the species being used and noted that the AWERC should concentrate on work being done under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act.

Schedule of Business

Received paper AWERC/15/18

15/57 The Schedule of Business was received for information. This would be updated following the meeting to allow for updates from the PEL holder and NVS at each meeting. **ACTION: Administrator.**

Other Business

Update from the NVS

- 15/58 The NVS reported that since the last meeting two condition 18 reports associated with two separate project licences were submitted to the Home Office (HO). Both events were investigated internally before reporting. The HO, NVS and respective project licence holders reached the conclusion that no further action was required in either case.
- 15/59 It was reported that the wind-tunnel had been installed and that the service would soon be registered on the schedule of premises.

Update from the PEL holder

- 15/60 The PEL holder reported that the recent annual meeting with the HO inspector had been generally positive. Communications with the HO had improved following a change of the University's single point of contact (SPoC) in the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) in London. In light of the trend towards self-regulation this was welcomed and the NVS and administrator were thanked for their efforts to develop and maintain a good working relationship with ASRU personnel.

UAR Supporting the Concordat in 2016 event

- 15/61 The Committee was told about the invitation to the Supporting the Concordat in 2016 event and attendance was briefly discussed. It was agreed that a member of the Press Office should be invited to represent the University. **ACTION: Administrator.**

AWERB Northern Regional Hub Meeting

- 15/62 The Committee was told that the first meeting of the AWERB Northern Regional Hub had been arranged to take place on Thursday 7th July. It was agreed that the University of Leeds AWERB should be represented either by Chair, PEL holder or NVS.
ACTION: Chair, PEL holder and NVS.

PPL amendments, applications and reviews

Amendments

Received paper AWERC/15/19

- 15/63 One application for amendment to a PPL had been received and fast-tracked since the last meeting.

PPL Applications

- 15/64 The Committee agreed that, in future, applicants would be invited to attend meetings and that business would be scheduled to work around this.
- 15/65 The potential for being able to estimate overall severity for a project was discussed but it was acknowledged that this could not be done with any accuracy. The Committee was told that the HO no longer assigned an overall severity to each project, with the current focus being on the severity of each protocol and retrospective reporting of actual severity.

A318

- 15/66 For background the NVS advised that the application was to continue the work being done under an existing project. Despite having a severe protocol, only 3 condition 18 reports had been made during the 5 year duration of the current project, the reason for the unexpected, instantaneous, deaths being due to unpredictability of stroke in animals as in humans. However, having refined the monitoring of animals no unexpected deaths had occurred in over a year.
- 15/67 The Committee discussed the examples and doses of substances to be administered and suggested that further information should be included in the appendix. With this addition and a few minor corrections it was agreed that the application could be submitted to the HO.

A319

15/68 The Committee was told that while this was the applicant's first project licence application a number of years had been spent deputising for another PPL holder so the applicant had some previous experience. Matters discussed included information on statistical analysis, potential limitations which should be reviewed and the arrangements for housing the animals. The Committee acknowledged that small numbers of animals were being used to identify suitable dose levels.

15/69 It was agreed that the applicant should be asked to provide more information about how significant interactions would be brought out when looking at combination therapy and a few minor changes were also suggested for inclusion/correction prior to submitting the application to the HO.

A320

15/70 The Committee acknowledged that the application was for the continuation of work under an existing project. The NVS advised that 2 condition 18 reports had been submitted to the HO which had been identified, at the time, to a specific person who was no longer working on the project.

15/71 Matters discussed included the GA lines which were to be used, frequency of monitoring animals under protocols and on altered diets. Some minor changes were suggested which would be passed on to the applicant for inclusion before the application could be submitted to the HO.

A321

15/72 The Committee was advised that the application was to continue work on an existing licence with a moderate severity protocol. During discussion it was agreed that further information should be included in the 3Rs section on reduction to add imaging as an initiative to obtain as much information as possible from one animal.

15/73 A number of other minor changes were identified for the applicant to incorporate before submitting the application to the HO.

PPL Mid-term Reviews

15/74 It was agreed that if any problems were encountered when considering a mid-term review the licensee would be invited to present their review at the next meeting.

MR008

15/75 The Committee agreed that the inclusion of a lay summary in the review form had been helpful.

MR009

15/76 The Committee was told that the PPL holder had moved to another establishment and that a new application would be made to include secondary availability at the University. The Committee would receive the application for consideration after approval had been given by the AWERB with primary availability.

Date of Next Meeting

15/77 27th May. It was likely that the date of the meeting scheduled in November would be changed and members would be notified. **ACTION: Chair and Administrator.**