

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

**ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Minutes  
11 May 2017

**Present:** 11 members were present at the meeting with 2 people in attendance.  
**Apologies:** Apologies were received from 5 members.

The \_\_\_\_\_ was welcomed to the meeting as an observer and was informed that he would be welcome to visit the facilities at his convenience.

**Minutes**

16/118 The minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2017 were received and approved.

**Matters arising**

*Received paper AWERC16/20*

16/119 The update on actions was received for information.

16/120 (*min 16/90*) The NVS reported that the close monitoring of rats under a severe protocol was continuing and that one animal on the study, which had developed a skin condition, had been humanely killed.

16/121 (*min 16/92*) The unit manager agreed to speak to Estates Services about plans for refurbishment work and report to the Committee at the next meeting. **ACTION: Unit manager.**

16/122 (*min 16/97*) Members were asked to consider membership which would be included as an Agenda item for the next (Annual) meeting. Suggestions should be sent to the administrator and the Chair would meet with the PELh, NVS and administrator to discuss suggestions prior to the meeting. **ACTION: All.**

**Establishment Licence (PEL) holder's update**

16/123 The PEL holder reported that the HO inspector had recently visited both sides of the facility and observed procedures being carried out by personal licence holders and that no concerns had been raised.

16/124 Two Condition 18 reports had been submitted to the HO since the last meeting. In each case a single mouse had been found dead, 1 of 20 observed in one study and 1 of 27 observed in another, both studies being within protocols where greater numbers of animals had been used within the severity limit. The Committee was told that the HO inspector would respond immediately to speak to the PPL holder or investigate if further action was necessary. However, no concerns had been raised and both reports had been filed.

16/125 Staff had been given access to the new IT system for the purpose of master data entry [via on-campus secure wired connection only]. Progress with data entry and plans for roll-out to users would be reported at the next meeting. **ACTION: Administrator.**

### **Named Veterinary Surgeons' (NVS) update**

- 16/126 During the recent unannounced inspection the HO inspector had been impressed with licensees' aseptic technique. The HO inspector had also met with three PPL applicants to discuss changes to their applications. Four applications were currently with the HO inspector and three further applications were being written. The application to transfer primary availability on an existing PPL, raised at the last meeting, was still to be received.
- 16/127 With regard to animal health the NVS reported that one rat on a study had to be humanely killed following post-operative complications that were not related to the study.
- 16/128 Analysis of histology data following satisfactory completion of a pig study involving 6 pigs would determine whether further animals would be required.
- 16/129 The Committee welcomed news that there would be no change of HO inspector for the University in the near future.

### **PPL Applications**

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- 16/130 The NVS provided some background to the application and explained that the applicant, who had moved to the University from the US, was very experienced and that he had successfully completed the UK personal and project licensee training during recent weeks. The applicant was welcomed to the meeting and invited to present to the Committee.
- 16/131 The applicant explained and described the work, using mice, which would be concerned with investigating contributing pathways involved in the development of specific cancers which affect significant numbers of people.
- 16/132 During discussion the Committee considered the scientific approach; the 3Rs, including the possibility of using a less invasive technique for raising antibodies against haematological cancers of interest; the arrangements for daily checking of animals; and the information included in the non-technical summary.
- 16/133 The Committee was satisfied that with the inclusion of training information and some minor amendments the application should be submitted to the HO.

### **PPL Amendments**

*Received paper AWERC/16/21*

- 16/134 The Committee received details of amendments since the last meeting. The administrator reported that the HO inspector had acted quickly to grant an amendment to approve new Places other than the Licensed Establishment sites in a licence for research involving nesting birds.

### **Review of Terms of Reference Oversight**

*Received paper AWERC/16/22*

- 16/135 The Committee was asked to consider the content of the paper, which had been updated by the NVS and administrator, and submit any suggestions for changes to the administrator. The PEL holder advised that the key question to consider was whether the Committee was satisfied that this was sufficient to give assurance that all points in the Terms of Reference were being addressed. **ACTION: All.**

### **ULBS Report**

*(Received paper AWERC/16/17)*

- 16/136 Two ULBS meetings had been held since the last meeting of the Committee. No operational problems or animal welfare issues had been raised and points discussed included progress with the IT system; the HO inspector (*see min 16/129*); the tender for the

rack washer; unit financial deficits and levels of work. The Committee noted the report and acknowledged the efforts of the technical staff during a busy time.

### **Training Report**

*(Received paper AWERC/16/23)*

16/137 The Committee was told that demand for places was still exceeding those available but that demand had not been sufficient for the NVS to agree to deliver an additional course. However, all efforts were continuing to ensure that places were found as necessary on external courses nearby.

16/138 The Committee was pleased to note that accreditation had been confirmed until 2021.

16/139 The Chair asked for a summary of feedback from the courses to be included in the next report. **ACTION: Administrator.**

### **Schedule of Business**

*(Received AWERC/16/18)*

16/140 The updated Schedule of Business was received for information.

### **AWERB hubs and AWERB-UK**

16/141 The Chair was hoping to attend the AWERB-UK meeting "Putting Ethics into the AWERB" in June.

### **AWERB as a Forum for Discussion**

*(Paper AWERC/16/15, previously circulated)*

16/142 The Committee agreed that the action points should be considered and made reference to as part of the annual report to Council. **ACTION: Administrator.**

### **Other Business**

16/143 **Building Work.** The unit manager would keep this under review, liaise with Estates Services and report to the Committee. An appropriate representative of Estates Services would be identified and invited to attend future meetings when significant estates issues are to be discussed. **ACTION: Unit manager.**

16/144 **Facilities** official opening 13 July.

16/145 **RSPCA/LASA AWERB Induction Materials.** To be circulated to members for information. **ACTION: Administrator.**

### **Date of next meeting**

16/146 The next (Annual) meeting would be held at 1130 on Thursday 6 July.