

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
27 May 2016

Present: 7 members were present at the meeting with 1 person in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 6 members.

Minutes

15/78 The minutes of the meeting on 13 April 2016 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received AWERC/15/20

15/79 The update on actions was received and it was noted that all actions had been completed.

PPL applications

A322

15/80 The applicant was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to the members of the Committee. The Committee was told that the project would consider how aspects of the immune system work and how it could be possible to use findings from the research to develop novel therapies for cancer. Aspects of the application that were discussed included 3Rs approaches, with the majority of work to be done using tissues and, where animals were to be used, the refinement of procedures. Arising from discussions a number of suggested changes were proposed which the applicant agreed to incorporate.

15/81 The Chair observed that the short lay paragraph was well set out, easy to read and understand. It was agreed that the instructions to applicants would be amended to encourage the use of appropriate headings. **Action: Administrator.**

A323

15/82 The applicant's nominee and alternate contact was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to the members of the Committee. The Committee was told that the application would look at the relationship of calcium channels to cardiovascular disease. Matters discussed included, the range of severity of protocols in the application, which was expected to reflect a similar range shown in human disease. Typical steps in the protocols including their bearing on severity and the humane endpoints that would be applied to reduce animal suffering were also discussed along with likely adverse effects, animal observations and weighing schedules. The potential for secondary availability to make use of existing facilities at another establishment was noted. A number of changes were discussed which would be conveyed to the applicant and incorporated before submission of the application to the Home Office.

A324

15/83 The applicant was welcomed to the meeting and introduced to the members of the Committee. In this application behavioural approaches would be used to study brain disorders such as those found in schizophrenia, autism and dementia where other methods of study in human patients (such as biopsies) cannot be used. The Committee discussed the methods of study, their relevance and the importance of limiting the exposure of individual animals to any of the more severe tests. For animals that would undergo a number of tests the need to consider the appropriate order to minimise any unwanted effects that could occur was stressed. The applicant was asked to consider the cumulative effect on each animal when planning a series of behavioural tests. The applicant agreed to make minor changes to the application, as suggested by the Committee, before submitting the application to the Home Office.

NVS's update

- 15/84 The NVS reported that one Condition 18 report had been submitted to the Home Office since the last meeting. This was in relation to the report of one mouse (out of nine) which had been found dead on a moderate severity protocol.
- 15/85 The Committee was told that a CPD event for PPL holders held in May and involving the Home Office Inspector had received generally positive feedback from participants. Amongst suggestions for future CPD events there had been a request for the AWERB Chair to talk to licensees about the work of the Committee. The Chair agreed to consider this when the next event was being planned. **ACTION: Chair and NVS.**

Review of Terms of Reference oversight

Received AWERC/15/21

- 15/86 The Committee received the Terms of Reference Oversight document that had been agreed and finalised in 2015. No changes were required so the document would be brought forward for review again in a years' time. **Action: Administrator to update the Schedule of Business.**

ULBSC report

Received AWERC/15/20

- 15/87 The Committee was told that ULBS had met once in March and that the two main items to report were the new caging which was being installed in and discussions of potential development at . There were no issues to report.

Group on Training Requirements annual report

Received AWERC/15/20

- 15/88 The Committee received the report for information and the administrator confirmed that, since circulating the report, the proposed audit visit by representatives of the Universities' Accreditation Group had been arranged to take place on Thursday 21 July.

PPL amendments, applications and reviews

- 15/89 There had been no amendments to report since the last meeting and the PPL reviews that were due had been deferred until the next meeting in order to prioritise the more urgent consideration of new project licence applications.

Schedule of Business

Received paper AWERC/15/18

- 15/90 The Schedule of Business was received for information. This would be updated following the meeting. **ACTION: Administrator.**

Other Business

Proposal for NIH funding to be transferred to the University

- 15/91 The NVS explained that an enquiry had been received from a University Professor who was seeking to bring an American colleague to the University. This would involve the transfer of a 5 year National Institutes for Health (NIH) grant from the US. The Committee was told that, in order to be able to apply for the funds to be transferred to the UK the University would first have to provide an agreement, in principle, to the work being done here. Only after confirming this would the University be invited to apply for the US Foreign Institutions' Public Health Service Approved Animal Welfare Assurance which is necessary to allow NIH funds to be transferred to the University (unsolicited requests are not accepted). The agreement in principle would include confirmation that suitable facilities and staff would be available to support the work; that the project application would be considered by the AWERC, equivalent to the US Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC); and that all UK licensing and other legal requirements would be met.

15/92 The Administrator apologised for this matter being raised at such short notice and explained that the process of application for PHS Assurance, through the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), was expected to take about 6 months based on previous experience, so it was important to be able to start the process as soon as possible. The Committee was assured that any project licence application in relation to this proposal would be brought to the AWERC according to the usual arrangements and that all that was required at this stage was an agreement in principle from the AWERC in order to get the US application process started. A letter confirming agreement in principle would be drafted for this purpose. **Action: Administrator.**

Secondary availability

15/93 The NVS advised that a request for secondary availability at another establishment had been received for an existing project licence held at the University. The Committee agreed that, since approval had been received from the other establishment's AWERB, the application for amendment could be submitted to the Home Office.

Date of next meeting

15/94 1500 to 1700 on Wednesday 27th July. The Chair agreed to look at alternative dates for the meeting in November. **ACTION: Chair.**