

The University of Nottingham
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Thursday 18 May 2017

MINUTES

17 Members Present, 7 Apologies, 3 in Attendance

17/21 Minutes

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

17/22 Matters arising from the Minutes

(a) Action log

An action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB and progress updates provided to members.

(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 17/15]

REPORTED: Two of the four applications considered at the last meeting had been submitted to the HO, with one still awaiting submission and another brought to the AWERB for resubmission.

(c) 3Rs meeting – September 2017 [Minute 17/17]

REPORTED: The agenda for the meeting had been finalised and distributed to members. Members had been asked to circulate and promote the event to their colleagues.

17/23 Chair's Business

(a) Mid/Interim Licence Reviews

REPORTED: The task group had met and discussed the process of mid/interim-licence reviews. It had been agreed that, from September, mid/interim licence reviews would be requested typically 2.5 years from the start of the licence. The format would be akin to end of licence reviews used currently and a draft form would be brought to AWERB for approval.

17/24 Project Licence Applications

(a) Dr AA (resubmission)

REPORTED: The applicant had presented the proposed work, which had previously been brought to AWERB, involving the study of the mechanisms of tinnitus and background noise in hearing loss.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO. Questioning had been primarily focused around clarifying specific meaning in the application and the possibility of reclassifying severity of one of the protocols. All questions had been answered to the satisfaction of AWERB.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to comments being addressed.

(b) Dr BB

The applicant had presented an overview of the intended work to AWERB, which involved non-invasive behavioural tests for the purposes of investigating early methods of detecting Alzheimer's disease.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO primarily focused on the nature of the GM strains being used and clarity in the specific numbers of GM and wild type animals within the licence.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

(c) Dr CC

The applicant had presented the intended work to AWERB which involved the study of gene regulation during cell fate specification.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO primarily focused around the choice of animal model and surgical interventions to explore whether alternatives were viable. The applicant had responded to the satisfaction of AWERB that they were both appropriate.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

17/25 Retrospective Review of Project Licenses

Two retrospective reviews had been provided to AWERB for comment. Discussions into the specifics of each were held by members, one which had been a resubmission was highlighted as now being appropriate and another which involved an unsuccessful project was discussed.

RESOLVED: Both retrospective reviews had been approved.

17/26 AWERB procedure for 'Consideration of work with animals not requiring ASPA licence authority'

REPORTED: A new process for work with animals not requiring ASPA authority had been developed and a paper outlining this process provided to members for comment. It had also been noted that the number of such instances had increased, the cause of which had been due to; increased awareness within the academic community for this process, increasing need for tissues and an increase in student projects.

RESOLVED: The updated procedure was deemed satisfactory and approved.

17/27 RSPCA/LASA Guiding Principles: Refinement ideas for focus in BSU

REPORTED: One of the areas highlighted for refinement had been regarding incidence of fighting amongst male lab mice. A survey was being undertaken amongst institutions to determine the scope of the issue. Internally, incidence was lower than expected though an individual breed had been identified as most aggressive and had been shown to be mirrored across the sector.

RESOLVED: It was noted that BSU will be working with the NC3Rs during their Laboratory Mouse Aggression Survey. New forms of bedding which may reduce aggression would be trialled.

17/28 Establishment Licence Holders' meeting – 25/4/17

REPORTED: Due to the impending election and state of purdah, it had been noted that much of the intended content of the meeting would not be possible. A series of updates from the meeting had been provided to members including upcoming guidance on condition 18 reports, the EU Directive in light of Brexit and sector viewpoints on the application process.

17/29 Joint Establishment/Stakeholder ASRU Workshop on the Project Licence – 4/5/17

REPORTED: Members had attended the workshop and relayed to AWERB that frustrations regarding the project licence process were shared across the sector. It had been noted that simplification was needed and perhaps that it could learn from electronic grant application processes.

17/30 Summary of PPL applications and amendments

REPORTED: Updates on ongoing applications were given to members, highlighting the complexity and time consuming nature of applications across the institution. Ideas had been raised by members to address this, including more surgeries with applicants prior to application and beginning conversations with applicants in a focused way around aims and objectives of the work.

17/31 Animal use at Nottingham – Home Office Return data for 2016

REPORTED: Animal use numbers had been uploaded and indicated a reduction of around 20% in animal numbers from the previous year. Individual categories of severity were discussed and had indicated low numbers of “severe” and “moderate” severity classifications.

17/32 Home Office Annual Report 2015

REPORTED: Updates had been provided to members. It had been reported that section 24 of ASPA would be on hold until after the general election.

17/33 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

REPORTED: Five licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

17/34 Project Licences granted by the Home Office

REPORTED: One licence discussed at previous AWERB meetings had been granted by the Home Office.

17/35 Any other business

(a) Possible compliance issue in BSU:

REPORTED: An issue had been raised with the Inspector by BSU staff and licence holder concerned. A communication had been circulated to all BSU users to make them aware of the required refresher training.

(b) Recent FOI Request:

REPORTED: An FOI request had been received for animal usage numbers and AWERB minutes, both of which had been provided.