

University of Nottingham
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Thursday 5 October 2017

MINUTES

17 Members Present, 7 Apologies, 3 in Attendance

17/47 Minutes

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

17/48 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. This included successful circulation of guidance on retrospective reviews, a high uptake of the Flair online course by research colleagues and biosecurity measures being implemented following discussion at a previous AWERB.

(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 17/40]

REPORTED: The two applications considered at the previous meeting had not yet been formally submitted, though progress with each applicant had been made in the drafting stages.

17/49 Chair's Business

(a) Membership

REPORTED: Two new members had been welcomed to the AWERB, fulfilling vacant positions. Two memberships had also been extended for a further term of three years.

17/50 Project Licence Applications

(a) Prof AA

REPORTED: The applicant had presented the proposed work which involved the modelling of vascular systems in mice to study the movement of molecules from blood to tissue.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NACWO. Questioning had been primarily focused around justification of the animal model used and the duration for which anaesthesia would be used in a typical experiment. Justification for the experiment had been sound, minor amendments were suggested to improve clarity in the application.

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 the study of the effect of paternal diet on offspring development. This submission was to approve a change of primary availability to the UoN from a third party establishment.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NACWO. AWERB members discussed the application, with specific reference to proposed reductions in some of the planned procedures. Assurances were provided that the required data would still be obtained. Example scoring sheets had also been requested. All queries had been responded to the satisfaction of AWERB.

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

(c) Dr CC

The applicant had presented an overview of the intended work to AWERB, which involved the study of maternal obesity and its impact upon labour using a mouse model.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NACWO. Queries were raised with the applicant regarding specifics of the methods used and sought clarity in the application to highlight a typical experimental pathway. Alternative methods had also been suggested for gathering data. The applicant was asked to facilitate communication between the UoN Named Persons and their counterparts at the establishment where specific licensee training had taken place. This is in order to ensure that appropriate safeguards can be implemented.

RESOLVED: The applicant would be asked to resubmit to AWERB once comments and queries had been addressed.

17/51 Summary of PPL applications and amendments

REPORTED: A summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments had been provided and discussed with AWERB members. It had also been noted that some amendments had now started being processed by the ASPeL system.

17/52 Retrospective Reviews of Project Licences

REPORTED: Two retrospective licence reviews had been discussed in detail and approved at the 3Rs subgroup meeting before being brought as an information item for AWERB.

17/53 Update on 3Rs meeting

REPORTED: The 3Rs meeting had taken place at the University in the previous month and had been a success, attracting over 100 attendees with positive feedback provided. Another Midlands University has volunteered to host the next annual meeting.

17/54 Non-Compliance issue in BSU

REPORTED: A non-compliance incident had taken place in the BSU and had been reported to the Home Office Inspector. The incident had involved extenuating circumstances for the individual involved and had been an unexpected deviation from an otherwise good record of compliance. The incident report had been forwarded to the compliance team following the Inspector's assessment, though the Inspector had indicated this had been an isolated incident and had not lost confidence in the University.

17/55 BSU Annual Report of Named Persons: 2016-17

REPORTED: An annual report of named persons had been produced and shared with AWERB. Due to time limitations it had not been possible to discuss this agenda item in full.

ACTION: AWERB member comments would be forwarded outside of the meeting before being forwarded to the University Research Ethics Committee for review.

17/56 SVMS Research Ethics Annual Monitoring Form and Revised Terms of Reference

REPORTED: An annual monitoring form and revised terms of reference had been provided to AWERB. It had been highlighted that concept note numbers were an indication of work that may go ahead, not work that had necessarily occurred. The report had also indicated the mechanism of referring ongoing or potential work to AWERB members for review had been working effectively.

17/57 New AWERB cover forms (new PPL, fast-track amendment and study protocol)

REPORTED: Updated cover forms had been provided for AWERB member comments. The new forms had been intended to capture work outside of or in addition to ASPA and ensuring other licences or authorisation was in place where necessary.

17/58 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

REPORTED: Amendments to four licences had been approved by fast-track procedure.

17/59 Project Licences granted by the Home Office

REPORTED: Two licences discussed at previous AWERB meetings had been granted by the Home Office.

17/60 Any other business

No further business had been raised.