

University of Nottingham
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Thursday 5 July 2018

MINUTES

12 Members Present, 11 Apologies, 4 in Attendance

18/33 Minutes

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

18/34 Matters arising from the Minutes

(a) Action log

The action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB and progress updates provided to members. This included:

- (1) That licence holders are required under Standard Condition 21 of the Establishment Licence to maintain adequate and effective liaison with those who have responsibility for welfare of animals. Therefore, project licence holders would be required to report concerns to the Establishment Licence Holder or his nominee.
- (2) That BSU staff would be presenting a poster at the 3Rs event in September.
- (3) That the Faculty 'task and finish' group had been established by an Associate PVC. (June 18) and the group had held their first meeting.
- (4) That the chair would draft an e-mail and send it to the NACWO about the open AWERB sessions in October so plenty of notice was given to BSU users. The 3Rs representative would contribute to these sessions again.

(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 18/24]

REPORTED: That two of the applicants had submitted drafts on ASPeL and two of the applicants had not yet done so.

(c) PPL application process working group update [Minute 18/27]

REPORTED: That the recent PPL applications had been approved quickly with favourable comments as a result of the new process.

RESOLVED: That it would be requested of the relevant PPLh's that these applications would be made available for other applicants as well as appropriate examples approved by the previous HO Inspector.

18/35 Chair's Business

(a) Membership

REPORTED: That four memberships were due to end.

RESOLVED: That the Chair would talk to people over the summer with regards to membership of the AWERB.

18/36 Project Licence Applications

(a) Dr AA

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved understanding brain function and dysfunction using stroke models.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and the Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused around location of implants and the logistics of animal imaging. There was also a general consensus that this was a clear, well written application.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

(b) Dr BB

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved improving drug therapy based on pharmacokinetic principles.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, a member of AWERB and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around the use of rats rather than mice, justification for jugular catheterisation rather than tail vein sampling and clarification of timescales. The applicant gave appropriate clear scientific justification for the requirement for catheterisation and was also thanked for a well written application which addressed previous recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

(c) Dr CC

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved the assessment of the neural basis of cognition.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around clarification of the proposed drugs, the primary outcome measurement and the control groups.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

18/37 Summary of PPL applications and amendments

CONSIDERED: A summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments.

REPORTED: That one application had been granted having been ongoing for a while and that another was still outstanding. Another applicant had an alternative way of carrying out the research so may have needed to include this in the PPL. One PPL was awaiting approval from another University's AWERB Committee. Another application had been approved by the HO with a very fast turnaround. A final draft application was being reviewed by the HO Inspector. A few administrative changes were also taking place in terms of project licence holders.

18/38 3Rs update

RECEIVED: A summary from a recent 3Rs fish workshop.

REPORTED: That enrichment testing for fish had taken place at other universities and that the University of Nottingham would trial them to see if they were beneficial. AWERB was reminded that posters were still required for the upcoming symposium. Refined handling of mice was also discussed.

RESOLVED: That the BSU would put together a poster for the symposium. AWERB would also advocate the refined handling method for mice:

- (1) All BSU staff and University of Nottingham researchers would be required to use refined handling unless there was a scientific reason why this was not possible.
- (2) External organisations would be actively encouraged to use refined handling and the BSU would work with them to make this viable.

18/39 Research Activity in BSU

REPORTED: That internal research activity had declined but this had been slightly offset by an increase in commercial research resulting in an overall slight decline in activity. A task group had been established to review usage data, benchmark and survey users. University systems were being developed to enable more effective searches to identify animal research.

18/40 BSU Staffing Update

RECEIVED: A paper on BSU staffing update.

REPORTED: That the BSU had reduced staff numbers partly due to high staff turnover relating to issues around retention of technicians. The BSU was managing with current levels of staff due to decreased workloads over the summer and additional support provided through Unitemps. Two adverts for technicians had also been posted and apprenticeships could be an option in the future. Agencies would be avoided where possible due to the cost implications. An engagement workshop had been arranged aiming to improve staff retention. Technicians would be involved more in the research to improve job satisfaction.

RESOLVED: That the NACWO would inform the Establishment Licence Holder if additional staffing arrangements needed to be made.

18/41 Proposed dates of meetings in session 2018-19

REPORTED: That the proposed dates had been circulated.

18/42 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

REPORTED: That six project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

18/43 Project licences granted by the Home Office

REPORTED: That three project licences had been granted by the HO.

18/44 Any Other Business

(a) Press Releases

REPORTED: That a new labelling system had been established for press releases so journalists could quickly ascertain the kind of study and the model used for the research.

RESOLVED: That press releases involving animal research would be flagged to the NACWO before release.

(b) Concordat

REPORTED: That the University of Nottingham could consider increasing input to the Concordat for example by means of a virtual tour.

RESOLVED: That the NACWO would circulate examples of what other universities have done to allow AWERB to decide how to proceed.

(c) BSU visit

REPORTED: That a recent visitor to the BSU had been extremely positive about what they had seen.

RESOLVED: That the NACWO would circulate the comments to AWERB.