
Minutes: AWERB summary minutes: Standing Agenda items meeting

Status: Final

Meeting held: Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 11am via MS Teams

Present:

12 plus 2 in attendance and 9 apologies

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April and 3 May 2022 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2 MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 **Item 1.1 (3 May 2022 meeting): Providing standard wording for housing, husbandry and health status for zebrafish:** Standard wording had been put together which would be circulated to AWERB for comment.
- 2.2 **Item 3.2: BSU Virtual Tour storyboard (3 May 2022 meeting)**
A meeting had been held the day before. Further work and discussions were needed with senior management. The material that had already been taken would be reviewed to see what further work was needed on it.
- 2.3 **Item 3.3 Goats at Camden (6 April 2022 meeting)**
It looked like the decision was that instead of using goats, just calves would be used for the teaching. The teaching ponies would be rehomed.
- 2.4 **Item 6.1: Communicating the role of AWERB to PhD students (26 April 2022 meeting)**
In total 5 different versions of the presentation that was given to PhD students had been provided. These were being amalgamated into one.
- 2.5 **Item 5.8: Establishment Licence: updating the room names (8 March 2022 meeting)**
The most up to date plans from Estates were being obtained so that a cross check could be done to ensure that all the plans tallied.
- 2.6 **Item 4.9: Camden Stables (23 March 2022 meeting)**
It had been confirmed that the way forward in determining where the best emergency access point was to get the fire brigade to have a look, however they were not currently doing fire risk assessments, so it was difficult to take forward. This would continue to be pushed for.
- ## 3 RETROSPECTIVE ASSESSMENT
- A retrospective assessment that was to be submitted to the Home Office had been received for review.

AWERB confirmed that subject to some more detail being provided to the scientific objectives and how they were achieved and providing clarity in the 3rs section then they were happy for this to be submitted.

4 REVIEWING OF RESEARCH POLICIES

AWERB were reminded that they had been tasked by the Ethics and Welfare Committee to review some of the research policies:

- To ensure that the information was up to date
- To consider our policy framework and decide what should and should not be in there
- To ensure that the policies were consistent, particularly as there could be different partners and countries involved.
- To identify if there were any gaps
- To ensure that these were all incorporated under the culture of care for animal welfare umbrella as these had to be the lead line in everything that we did. This needed to be captured in our statements in relation to animal research
- To decide whether any of our research policies should were actually guidelines and vice versa.

It was agreed that a list of the policies would be circulated to AWERB, for members to then identify which ones they would be happy to take the lead on reviewing. If there were any gaps, then members would be nominated to review them. Once they had been reviewed individually, they would then be discussed as a group.

The following should be considered as part of the review:

- Was the policy still up to date?
- Was the policy still applicable?
- Was the policy still needed?
- Did any of it need to be changed?
- Could the policy be merged with any other policy?

As part of this process, a mapping exercise would be undertaken to see if they could identify any gaps.

5 3RS UPDATE

5.1 NC3Rs/MRC joint webinar: using both sexes in animal research

Regulators, funders and publishers were increasingly expecting studies to include both sexes. The MRC have recently introduced a requirement to include both sexes in experimental design and analysis plans for future funding rounds. This joint webinar would explore how to address common challenges when planning, conducting and analysing animal experiments involving both sexes. It would provide practical tips on planning and conducting experiments involving both sexes without compromising on the 3Rs.

5.2 3Rs mini symposium: 6 July at 9.30am: half day session

This event would be a series of talks as well as an interactive poster session. It was an opportunity to engage with the latest 3Rs opportunities. It was being held at Camden (videolinked to Hawkshead). AWERB were asked to promote it wherever they could.

6 NVS REPORT

6.1 Hawkshead

- No issues had been identified in the large animal studies taking place. They were building to recovery studies which would start the following week in pigs and sheep.
- Chicken studies were going well.
- The horse studies were going well.

6.2 Camden

- There had been problems with fighting mice
- One ferret had a nasty infection, and then had an accident. The ferret was now ok though.
- Some rabbits had been sampled and health screened.
- There had been two condition 18 reports submitted. One was for zebrafish that had died after fin clipping. This had been a one-off occurrence. The other condition 18 report related to a mouse pup that had died following surgery. The surgery was quite demanding on the pups and the researcher involved was being given guidance to give her support.

6.3 Dog unit

On the veterinary side the dogs were doing fine. There was a good routine in place and the techs were really on the ball in looking after the dogs. Some of the dogs had been showing signs of lameness and pain but seemed to have recovered. When the dogs were not on study they were allowed outside. However when they were on study they had to be kept inside and were showing signs of boredom. This was something that needed to be born in mind in the future.

Expiry of project licence: It was noted that the project licence was due to expire this year. The NVS were providing support in writing the new licence.

Rise in mortality of pups: The NVS were investigating an apparent rise in mortality of the pups and whether there were any phenotypical factors influencing the mortality.

7 NACWO REPORT

7.1 Camden

- Hazards in the animal yard: glass had been found in the walkway and animal yards; plus rubble had fallen off the Hobday building near the BSU entrance. These incidents have been reported.
- Humidifier unit and BMS system: there were still ongoing issues. The animals were being closely monitored and coming up with contingency plans.

7.2 Hawkshead

- Stud dog: a new stud dog had arrived the day before. He had been health checked and was settling in well. He would be monitored to see how he interacted with the other two males. He had been bought in as a sole male despite the researchers being advised that ideally, he should have been brought in with a pen mate.

8 NTCO REPORT

8.1 Applying for personal licences

Although the new process for applying for personal licences was a lot smoother, one area that could be improved was clarifying the information that PIL applicants needed to provide in relation to training records, particularly what was meant by K-skills. The “Applying for a PIL” SOP would be reviewed to see if this process could be clarified further.

9 NEW HOME OFFICE PROJECT LICENCES GRANTED

9.1 Primary availability:

AWERB noted that one project licence had been granted with primary availability since the previous meeting.

9.2 Secondary availability

AWERB noted that three project licences had been granted with secondary availability since the previous meeting.

9.3 Amended PPLs

AWERB noted that one project licence had been amended since the previous meeting.

10 STUDY REQUESTS

AWERB noted that one study request had been approved since the previous meeting.

11 AWERB TERMS OF REFERENCE

AWERB reviewed the terms of reference in relation to the Operations section. They were advised that with the College being formally made a University from November, the terminology in the terms of reference would need to be amended from referencing “College” to “RVC”.

12 CONDITION 18 REPORTS

AWERB noted the paperwork for a condition 18 report that had been submitted since the previous meeting.

13 TISSUE STUDY REQUESTS

It was noted that all new tissue study requests were being placed on sharepoint so that they were easily accessible and in one place. The plan was to also upload previously approved study requests to the same place.

13.1 Date of next meeting

This was scheduled for 21 June 2022. It would be a PPL review meeting.