

Date: Friday, 15/12/23

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: Held virtually using MS Teams

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

After some small changes to the minutes from 17th November the minutes were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

The Home Office Audit Report came through with a number of changes and updates, responses were returned to the Home Office by the dates that we were given and so thanks were given to everyone for their help with that.

The Establishment Licence Holders training for new establishment licence holders was held at [REDACTED] and it was well received.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended the meeting at [REDACTED], where the Home Office was represented by both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There were discussions about the future of the Home Office, and the fact that staffing is very difficult within the Home Office at the moment. There was a question whether ASRU should move from the Home Office to another government department. There was also recognition of the lack of consistency in responses.

4. What is happening in your unit?

The humidifier in [REDACTED] that was fixed earlier in the week has now broken again. The solenoid valve has still not been done today.

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

Fighting in transport was a concern but this seem to be better now. A couple of months ago there was some ongoing delivery organisation problems and problems with animals coming from abroad without food and water. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] dealt with that.

We had an issue with the fact that [REDACTED] suddenly stopped claiming their mice were free of Klebsiella. There was concern therefore that we'd brought in some positives, which we haven't, so we're fine. Any animals coming to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] are now coming from the SPF barrier.

Malocclusion is an ongoing concern. There seemed to be a spike around July and September but that has now dropped. We are hoping this is now a historical event however, this week an order has been received with malocclusion. There have been some problems with orders being fulfilled from [REDACTED] with weight and age ranges. [REDACTED] has contacted our two biggest importers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding the importing requirements into the UK recent change from Defra. They were aware of it, had acted upon it and said there's nothing that we needed to do or change as a result of that.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

There have been quite a few temp to perms over the last couple of weeks. Posts at various levels are slowly being filled.

[REDACTED] has been working with [REDACTED] to get some experienced techs in.

Thank you to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who met the other week and are starting to write a training program for new staff coming in which will facilitate them through a more structured process.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

There are no notes available from the Colony Management meeting in December yet. There was a talk from [REDACTED] which is available on Moodle.

MCMS update around completing and linking health concerns to regulated procedures or not. Further guidance and training will be required before this is sent out to all users.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

There have been 27 SC18's this month with the commonalities being tumours, five weight loss, 2 anaesthetic, 3 missed dose, 2 found dead, 6 compounds to hippocampus, lesion 2 and seizures 2.

6. Non-regulated Procedures

[REDACTED] - Could the number of animals be more specific. Rather than saying various or rarely more than two, and they have only included the number adults, can they include the number of embryos and at what stage of development they will be taken.

Could the strain names also be included. PPL authority question should be yes, not no. As this is a non-reg request the amount of funding should be shown.

[REDACTED] – Could the date the mother is killed be added to the 3Rs enquiries list?
Confirmation of death needs to be added for the embryos.

██████████ – Explanation needed about where the CD1s are coming from and amend the end date to 2024.

██████████ – Add the date that the funding has been extended to.

From January non-regulated procedure requests will not feed into AOC but follow a new process within the UBSCO.

7. Biofacility Infrastructure

██████████ and ██████████ have been in discussions with the Directors of the Estates Division about the serious concerns around the ██████████ contract. A response was required to send to the Home Office about what we were doing to ensure that our responses to all our facilities regarding maintenance response times was adequate. All facilities should have had a visit from ██████████ who have spent the last couple of weeks catching up with their backlog of outstanding jobs. They have now noted that our facilities are high priority. ██████████ have now got funding for, and are about to appoint, a critical building manager. They will look after the estate's issues around UBS facilities and probably a couple of others. Please let ██████████ and ██████████ know if there are any issues you feel puts your building out of compliance. We are out of compliance by not having appropriate back-up systems.

In January ██████████ will be having the marmoset room and kitchen refurbished and the lights are being replaced. The ventilation on the lower floor is also being refurbished.

8. Health and Safety (RA's, COSHH)

We've recently had a UBS irradiation committee and a safety committee meeting which didn't bring up any specific points to be fed back at this meeting. We had an EA inspector visit the ██████████ today and that went very well.

██████████ can provide dates of Mental Health Awareness Training if anyone is interested.

9. Training and Competencies

There was a reminder that ██████████ is available to help with training and assessments in the facilities. Do contact her if you've got any problems or a backlog in the facilities. She will also be producing a poster to go out to facilities just to try and reach out to researchers. There are some spaces coming up for the IAT course and there is still some funding available for 2024.

The funding update will be sent out, but there is currently some confusion about where the funding forms should be going and what funding is available for which course. An update will be distributed once this has been clarified.

10. Any other business

This is ██████████ and ██████████ last meeting.

There was a discussion over the UBS Green Team, and it was agreed that it would be something that will restart in the New Year.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Minutes

Date of next meeting: 19th January 2024, In person, Group 1.

