

Date: Friday, 22/11/24

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

The new process was explained. Minutes will be sent out after the meeting to the whole committee, with an invitation for comments and amendments by the members that attended that meeting. Responses will be required within two weeks. After this, the minutes will be taken as agreed. Minutes will no longer be sent out with the meeting papers, with the exception of the online meetings where the minutes from the previous three meetings will be distributed with the papers.

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

There was a PEL holders day at [REDACTED] on 28th October. The [REDACTED] update was titled 'Improving Governance Working with Named Persons' given by [REDACTED]. They are bringing in a new operating model to optimise processes. They will increase staff by 30% and use staff for flexible resourcing depending on who needs them more at the time. They will be hiring in November and December with a view to rolling out the new way of working in April. There was a discussion around this and whether the new inspectors will still have medical expertise. Concerns were raised that harms-benefit analysis would be pushed onto AWERBs to do. [REDACTED] spoke about the [REDACTED] and how they support them. Congratulations were given to [REDACTED] on his talk which received good feedback.

4. What is happening in your unit?

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

■■■, ■■■ and ■■■ are doing 3Rs drop-ins. In August ■■■, October ■■■, ■■■ will be next. It is working well and will enable ideas to be shared between facilities. The aim is for one visit per facility each year.

There was a conversation around a technician swap with ■■■. We have sent techs to ■■■ but they have not sent any to us. ■■■ will speak to ■■■ and ■■■ for report of their experiences of it that ■■■ can use for the newsletter.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

■■■ have had some staffing challenges with long-term illness. Thanks was given to ■■■, ■■■, ■■■ and ■■■ for supporting the unit with this.

■■■ have taken on a lot of temp-to-perms from ■■■. Two of those are now bank staff. Sending them to ■■■ for their first training is working well.

■■■ has some temp-to-perms and have also had challenges with sickness. An advert for a cage wash person has gone out.

An advert has gone out four times for a buildings maintenance person at ■■■, ■■■ and ■■■ but has been unsuccessful. The advert is going to be revisited as it potentially has too many essential requirements.

■■■ is now NACWO on ■■■.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

RCA's will now only be discussed at the online meetings.

There were 38 SC18's this period involving 108 animals. 50 unexpected adverse effects, 17 unknown found dead. 11 of those were Tamoxifen dosing issues. The others were the usual issues.

6. Biofacility Infrastructure

The ■■■ waste bedding macerator is not fit for purpose. ■■■ will be coming in to find a solution.

■■■ are looking at changing half of the behavioural suite to an altered light cycle rather than a whole room. The environmental room on ■■■ is not yet complete.

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

■■■ has signed off the RPE policy. The latest legislation will be rolled out to staff soon and a copy will be put on the website. FFP2s should not be used anymore.

The SWAY ergonomic presentation will be rolled out in December.

There are super users being trained for powered respirators which are being trialled. These could potentially be available for visitors and researchers, replacing FFP3's.

HSE will be in on 11th December to inspect the ■■■.



8. Training and Competencies

A concern was raised about who is responsible for training users in husbandry tasks. They should be asked first why they need to perform husbandry themselves. If they do have to do it themselves then they should be trained by people in their own group. UBS staff can support if needed.

There was a conversation about skills that are not being used. Would a reassessment be needed, or would further training be needed before assessment. It was confirmed that it would depend on how skilled the person is. Someone on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] may be able to help with re-training if needed.

9. Any other business

There was a conversation about cervical dislocation on rats over 150g without the use of sedation. It was agreed there should be a separate DOPS for this.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the malocclusion workshop. Please remind anyone who hasn't done it to complete it. [REDACTED] will let you know who needs to be reminded.

The [REDACTED] are now housed at [REDACTED] and the researchers have complained that there isn't enough parking. Parking is first come first served. They can park at the park & ride and if they need to drop things off they can park at [REDACTED] to drop off then move to the park & ride.

[REDACTED] passed on her thanks to the [REDACTED] for arranging an extra assessor's course that will run next week.

Date of next meeting: 20th December 2024, Microsoft Teams