

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 21st April 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 10 x members, 2 x observer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved and finalised for ASUMB.	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (21 st March 2023)	
3.1	3.1 Biostatistician recruitment	Complete.
3.2	3.2 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.3	3.3 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.4 University of Bristol 3Rs award.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.5 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Ongoing.
3.6	3.6 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing.
3.7	3.7 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.8	3.8 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing.
3.9	3.9 Standardised wording for grant applications and publications	Ongoing.
3.10	3.10 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.11	3.11 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas	Ongoing.

3.12	7.3 Review of Final Review Form wording to better capture 3Rs achievements	Ongoing
3.13	13.2 Chair received response from ELH regarding the University's approach to Culture of Care for ensuring staff are supported.	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	Aim to facilitate a working group of relevant researchers to gather information for a response to a call for evidence.
4.1	ASC recruitment and recent AWERB Hub Workshop	
4.2	Discission of recent regulation of decapods in research workshop. Discussion regarding current governance routes regarding decapod research carried out at the Institution.	
4.3	AWERB response to recent student article.	
4.4	Large cohort of MSc UINs reviewed by 5 members outside of the meeting and discussed feedback provided	
5	Named Training and Competency Officer (NTCO) Report	
5.1	Discussion of training reviews undertaken across the last 3 months	
5.2	Co-ordinating PIL Technique Trainers across the research community	
5.3	Discussion of the trends of PIL trainees, holders and amendments across the last 5 years	
5.4	Inclusion of new internal practical session for next academic years PIL Training courses for general husbandry practice and animal unit tasks.	
6	Named Information Officer (NIO) Report	
6.1	Introduction of new team member.	
6.2	Continued theme of research talks at ASU staff meetings to increase the range of knowledge across technical staff about the research carried out within animal units.	
6.3	Continued to provide ASU Staff with weekly updates, including technical duty information, important University updates and relevant CPD opportunities.	

6.4	Slides from recent communication event circulated and available on Intranet location.	
6.5	Range of CPD opportunities circulated to relevant stakeholders.	
6.6	Beginning of technician led enrichment evaluation research project and plans for result dissemination and further CPD opportunities for technical staff involved.	
7	Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) Report	
7.1	Revised technical staff shift rotas to extend later in the day for busier units.	
8	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO) Report	
8.1	New appointments within ASU technical staff, including new NACWO.	
8.2	Recent attendance at national technical conference	
8.3	Recent stands at all-staff University events	
8.4	Recent tours for cross-University colleagues, for which great feedback was received.	
8.5	Increase in breeding activity	
8.6	New enrichments trialled including hanging nesting material, new hydrating gels and new play apparatus.	
8.7	Positive reinforcement using during sheep weighing to encourage voluntary movement.	
8.8	Retired sump equipment from the fish unit are going to be repurposed for rat playpens.	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	(None)	
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Apr23 Minor descriptive wording change within protocol	Approved
10.2	PPLAmend.2Apr23	

<p>10.3</p> <p>10.4</p> <p>10.5</p> <p>10.6</p> <p>10.7</p> <p>10.8</p>	<p>Refinement to urine analysis protocol</p> <p>PPLAmend.3Apr23 Increase in animals for service licence</p> <p>PPLAmend.4Apr23 New route of introduction of bioactive molecules</p> <p>PPLAmend.5Apr23 Minor descriptive wording change within protocol</p> <p>PPLAmend.6Apr23 Inclusion of food motivation factor for behavioural tasks</p> <p>PPLAmend.7Apr23 Generation of new zebrafish genetic line carrying heart defect genes and subsequent screening</p> <p>PPLAmend.8Apr23 Introduction of small non-recovery procedure including electrostimulation</p>	<p>Approved subject to minor clarification</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved subject to minor clarification</p> <p>Approved subject to minor clarification</p> <p>Approved</p>
<p>8.</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p>Final Reviews</p> <p>Final.1Mar23 Drug delivery to the brain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within estimated animal numbers • Introduction of physiotherapy during longer surgeries • One paper published with significant translational uptake <p>Final.2Mar23 Quantifying brain activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation of new electrodes • Inclusion of comparative human clinical data • Discussion of animal numbers used across the study • Implantation issues • Refinement through use of home-cage surveillance monitoring • Large number of papers published resulting from this work 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

8.3	<p>Final.3Mar23 Role of inflammation and treatments of arthritis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinements include use of specialise equipment for animal comfort and refined handling • Lower animal numbers due to relocation of Establishment and pandemic • Multiple grants awarded following this work • High-impact publications • Consideration of ARRIVE Guidelines 	
10	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	Secretary to inform
10.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN 1, 2 AWERB approved: 1 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2 AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	
10.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>2 – consider revising wording of experimental design to avoid bias.</p>	Secretary to inform
10.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1, 2 AWERB approved: 1 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2 AWERB not yet approved:</p>	
10.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>VIN.2 requires completed form.</p>	
11	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)	
12	AWERB Hub. (None)	

13	Any Other Business.	
13.1	Discussion on process for dual review for VINs already approved through external AWERBs – University of Bristol VIN is always required but may simply reference accompanying completed external ethics form.	
14.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): 23 rd May 2023 20 th June 2023 18 th July 2023	