

Governance

Unrestricted Minutes

- x Their AWERB was open to all colleagues
- x Regular pre/post study meetings were held
- x Meetings were held to address emotions and welfare
- x The attendees received a presentation from UAR on public perceptions – this suggested that there was likely to be less opposition from the public. The presentation also highlighted the importance of showing care for animals and talking about both harms/benefits
- x It was suggested that having a session to address how potential questions would be answered would be helpful
- x NC3Rs had spoken on evaluating environmental enrichment. A tool was available on their website
- x NC3Rs had also spoken about animal free antibody production

#### 21/23 Input around animal free innovations

[Redacted. Sec.40] reported that at her institutions discussions had taken place to ascertain what expertise was available in tissue engineering and biomaterials fields as a means of animal free innovations. It was suggested that similar discussions could take at Reading to see how colleagues could feed into the replacement agenda; [Redacted. Sec.40] agreed to discuss this further with [Redacted. Sec.40].

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

The AWERB noted that being proactive in looking for animal free innovations/replacements was a key part of Leadership in Openness.

#### 21/25 Mid-Term Review

It was noted that the pro-forma had been updated.

The meeting to discuss facilities permissions for the piggery had not yet taken place.

#### 21/27 Animal Research Policy

The AWERB received and approved an updated version of the Animal Research Policy.

[Redacted. Sec.40] reported that data and the non-technical summaries had been passed to Communications.

#### 22/4 Mid-Term Review

The Board received a presentation from [Redacted. Sec.40] in respect of her current Project Licence – Neural correlates of vitamin B supplementation. [Redacted. Sec.40] outlined the study and the following points were noted:

- x The study had four objectives
  - o Looking at the effect of a Vitamin B supplement on neural activity
  - o Looking at the effect of a Vitamin B supplement on cognitive behaviour
  - o Modelling neural activity
  - o Understanding mechanisms



- x The feedback had suggested using a broader range of animals. Pictures of the new BRU had been taken and consideration would be given to a virtual tour.
- x Consideration should be given to actively training staff on media commentary/engagement. UAR could offer a bespoke session on this.
- x In regard to public engagement it was noted that [Redacted. Sec.40] had been invited to contribute to the Royal Society Summer Exhibition this summer.

In regard to comments raised around the use of language and being too technical, [Redacted. Sec.40] offered to help further with this.

## 22/6 Report from Technical Services

It was noted that:

- x Acoustic testing had been undertaken on the boiler alarm which confirmed that it was within an acceptable level.
- x The vast majority of colleagues had now been inducted to the new unit.
- x The deep clean had taken place in January and results were awaited on the bioindicator tests. Once acceptable results were received animals could be moved in.
- x It was confirmed that the process to move sentinel animals could take place within a couple of weeks.
- x Technical Services were working with researchers to finalise the timing of the reactivations process with Harwell.
- x There were very few animals in the old BRU; those studies still housed in that facility were due to be completed by Easter.

## 22/7 Home Office ASRU Compliance Audit

The AWERB noted that all PEL/PPL/PIL colleagues had been contacted in regard to changes in how all those who hold Home Office establishment, project or personal licences were complying with the relevant rules. Previously, this was achieved by episodic unannounced inspections by the University's dedicated > 5 H G D F W H G > 5 H G D F @. H G 6 H F @ were no longer assigned/dedicated to individual establishments and the task of assessing compliance fell to dedicated audit teams.

The ASRU audit teams had already started on their programme of 'Full System' audits. Whilst very few audits had been completed the University had been given a very clear steer as to how the audit would be structured and where it would focus through the standard conditions for personal, project and establishment licences.

It was noted that [Redacted. Sec.40] had circulated the standards to relevant colleagues who had responded using a traffic light system on the individual elements. These responses had been followed up by further discussions with the NVSs.

