

## **HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

### **GM Ethics and Safety Committee**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **Constitution**

1. The Board of Governors has established a committee of the Board of Governors known as the GM Ethics and Safety Committee.

##### **Membership**

2. The Committee and its Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Governors. The members will be:

Vice Principal

Farm Manager

Biological Safety Officer

1 lay member of the Board of Governors

A member elected by and from the staff of CERC

A member elected by and from the local office of NIAB

2 members of College staff not involved in GM research appointed by the Board of Governors following consultation with the Farm Strategy Committee

##### **Authority**

3. The Committee is authorised by the Board of Governors to ensure that:
  - i) all GM trials or other GM work undertaken by the College are carefully considered and justified
  - ii) human health, environmental safety, good practice and propriety concerns are addressed before GM trials are undertaken at the College
  - iii) it provides advice to those undertaking risk assessments prior to GM work to ensure that it complies with the Contained Use Regulations and other statutory obligations
  - iii) it obtains a report from the leader of the trial at the end of the project which includes the results achieved, any resulting published work and any unforeseen ethical issues raised by the project

##### **Duties**

5. The duties of the GM Ethics & Safety Committee shall be:
  - a) To develop, with the advice of appropriate College staff and external agencies, guidelines for the ethical review of GM issues, for approval by the Board of Governors, and to review such guidelines in the light of emerging information from regulatory authorities
  - b) to ensure that appropriate steps are taken by the College to promote open academic debate about the use of GM materials in the food chain and to ensure that the Committee takes into account all aspects of the debate when considering project applications

- c) to consider all proposals for GM work to be undertaken by the College and to ensure that proposals have fully considered human health, environmental safety, security and propriety concerns. The Committee will have the right to request amendment to a proposal or reject a proposal in instances where evidence is not available that such full consideration has been made
- d) to ensure that all staff involved in approved GM work, are appropriately trained and are competent in the management and conduct of GM work and have undertaken risk assessments that are appropriate for the work in question
- e) to ensure that the College puts in place and uses a monitoring system to record the conduct and progress of GM work
- f) to review the outcome of completed GM projects to consider any unforeseen ethical, safety or security issues raised by such projects

#### **Attendance at meetings**

- 6. The Committee may, from time to time, invite other members of the College to provide specific advice and comment on applications for GM work.
- 7. The Committee is empowered to invite external representatives of regulatory bodies concerned with GM issues to attend meetings to assess the effectiveness of the ethical , safety and security review process and to offer advice about the process as required.

#### **Frequency of meetings**

- 8. Meetings shall normally be held when a request to conduct GM work is received. The Chairman of the GM Ethics and Safety Committee may request additional meetings if they are considered necessary. In addition, the Committee may be required to meet from time to time to consider specific ethical issues, in accordance with the approved procedures for the operation of the Committee.

#### **Reporting procedures**

- 9. Minutes of the meetings of the Committee will be submitted for information to meetings of the Board of Governors. If the Committee meets in any one year, it shall produce an annual report for the Board of Governors summarising the extent of its activities. Copies of minutes will be relayed to the Research Ethics Committee.

#### **Clerking arrangements**

- 10. The Clerk to the Governors will act as Clerk to the GM Ethics and Safety Committee.

October 2009

## **GM Ethics and Safety Committee**

### **Membership 2010/11**

#### **Members**

Vice Principal	-	Professor P Mills
Farm Manager	-	Mr S Kirby
Member of the Academic Staff	-	Dr L McIntyre (Biological Safety Officer)
1 Lay member of the Board of Governors	-	Mr B Udale (Chairman)
A member of Staff elected by and from the staff of CERC	-	Mr C Murray
A member elected by and from the local office of NIAB	-	Dr P Brook
2 members of College staff not involved in GM research appointed by the Board of Governors following consultation with the Farm Strategy Committee	-	Dr M K Hingley
	-	Mr R Early

#### **In Attendance**

Clerk to the GM Ethics and Safety Committee	-	Dr C E Baxter
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November 2010