

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

Animal Welfare & Ethical Review Body

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 via MS Teams

Present: Chair
Secretary
NVS
NACWO
NTCO
Director of Research
ELO
Project Licence Holders x3
Lay member/Chair of Research Ethics Committee
Governor member

In attendance: Note taker/NIO

Apologies: No apologies

11/20 Minutes

Approved: The minutes of the meeting of the Animal Welfare & Ethical Review Body held on 19 May 2020.

Noted: Two new members were welcomed, they were joining the Body, in roles of new AWERB Secretary and the HAU Director of Research. It is also advised the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor would be joining the AWERB on appointment.

12/20 Matters Arising

Agreed: **02/20** HOLC to work with marketing to develop this area of website. Completed.

03/20 PPL PDE402EC7 to be amended and approved by HOI prior to next AWERB meeting on 20 October 2020.

PPL holder

05/20 Review training records and ensure all competencies met and training for two new NACWO. Completed.

13/20 Concordat for Openness on Animal Science in the UK

Received: Overview of the Concordat for Openness on Animal Science in the UK discussion document and a discussion was held.

Noted: That costs are covered as part of UAR membership. There are a number of commitments to be undertaken which are annual reporting requirements of the Concordat. Responsibility for ensuring the information is regularly updated will need to be assigned and managed.

Agreed: To support the proposal that HAU would take up membership of the Concordat, subject to the Director of Research making the necessary recommendations to Academic Board on 18th November 2020 and to progressing the actions that will follow if the proposal is approved.

DoR

The Chair thanked the proposer for the work that was put into preparation of the item.

14/20 **Project Licences**

Noted: i) There were no new applications, or issues arising from current licences not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Agreed: ii) There were also no licences that have come to the end of their period of approval that need to be considered.

15/20 **Protocols**

Received: i) Protocol to be reviewed by members;
a) Protocol 06-20 on PPL P6E1DDA38
Influence of an ammonia binder when fed alone or in combination with a live yeast on the rumen microbiome, N balance and performance of dairy cows fed a diet high in rumen degradable N and soluble sugars.

Blood sampling methods were discussed including the number of times each animal would be tested and the wording of this area of the protocol.

Noted: NVS requested wording to be amended in the paragraph relating to blood sampling for better clarity.

Proposer agreed to make these changes which will be noted on the protocol prior to Chair's approval

**PPL
Holder**

Agreed: Following the above discussion, the AWERB approved the application and requested the advised amendments be made.

ii) that as all other protocols which had been circulated and considered since the last meeting had been agreed by circulation once any comments made had been addressed. No further amendments or actions were required;

iii) that confirmation of approval continues to be sent to proposers advising when formal approval is confirmed and a copy of the approval is held on the relevant project files.

16/20 **Report from the Named Training and Competency Officer**

Received: an oral report from the NTCO.

Interviews undertaken with each member of the technical team to review training requirements. All records relating to the competency logs have now been digitalised and held securely for each Technician.

A learning hub resource page has been developed and split into two sections for information and training. Module EL1 can be viewed and accessed by all staff via the resource page. NTCO would be meeting shortly with an accreditation body to determine feasibility of HAU being approved as an accredited trainer.

NTCO advised of future training opportunities that have been identified and that he is progressing. NTCO discussed sharing of information between the NVS and technicians, this would enhance how we work with sharing techniques and best practice. Members were in agreement.

17/20 **Report from the Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer**

Received: an oral report from the NACWO.

All activities were running smoothly within the animal units and no major issues have been experienced. The new dairy cows had also settled in well.

Noted: NACWO reported the unit has a number of new technicians who are still developing their skills and it was recognised that stockmanship takes time to fully develop and supervision was in place.

Agreed: This was discussed including plans for additional support and staff training. A sub-group meeting would be arranged between NTCO, NACWO, NVS and two Heads of Departments for Agriculture & Environment and Veterinary Health & Animal Science to progress this matter.

**Note
taker**

18/20 **Report from the Deputy Named Veterinary Surgeon**

Received: an oral report from the NVS.

NVS suggested that all technicians are encouraged to share ideas and best practice with staff working on farm dairy as the stockmanship requirements are similar, NACWO and NVS to arrange.

**NACWO
/NVS**

It was reported that the new cows have been examined and are well and healthy, with no issues to report.

19/20 **Report from the Named Information Officer**

Received: an oral report from the NIO.

NIO had continued to circulate all notices and advice received from the Home Office, UAR and NC3R.

Two new Deputy NACWO's had completed training on 27 July 2020, this was held at HAU over a two-day period.

20/20 **Any Other Business**

Noted:

- a) Review of AWERB Terms of Reference and updated.
- b) AWERB Annual Report had been presented to the Board of Governors. No issues had been raised.

21/20 **Date of Next Meeting**

Provisional dates for the next two meetings via MS Teams both at 10.00am on Tuesday 13th April and 12th October 2021.