

Standing Committee Annual Report

Name of Committee or Council: University Animal Care and Use Committee (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IACUC)

Chair: Gilbert Pitts, Ph.D.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Committee membership is mandated by both APSU policy and federal guidelines. This year the following individuals served on this committee: Christina Galben (Veterinarian), Chris Gienger (Biology/CEFB), Amy Bishop (Community rep.), Brian Hock (Psychology), Ben Howard (veterinarian), Rodney Mills (Agriculture), Brooklyn Munday (student rep), Gilbert Pitts (Chair), Andrew Shepard-Smith (Director, Grants and Sponsored Research), Phileneese Slaughter (non-scientist), and Stefan Woltmann (Biology). The Chair wishes to thank the committee members very much for all their hard work. The Chair also thanks Beth Hoilman for her work in maintaining records for this committee.

Meeting Dates for 2014-2015:

May 6, 2015

Inspection of Clement, Sundquist and farm animal facilities
Regular meeting
Semiannual IACUC program review

Major Actions & Accomplishments

ANIMAL PROTOCOL REVIEWS: Reviewed 12 new animal protocols. None of the protocols required a meeting of the IACUC committee. We also managed 28 on-going protocols. This year we did a much better job of tracking the Annual reviews of the Animal Protocols

IACUC POLICY: The IACUC committee submitted a request to the APSU Policy Committee to remove the Dean of Graduate Studies from the Committee and to add the Manager of Environmental Health and Safety.

PROTOCOL SUSPENSIONS: Two IACUC protocols were suspended by the Chair of the IACUC Committee. One protocol, 14.002, used more animals than stated on the protocol. The animal user was told that the protocol would need to be modified and resubmitted before further animal use could occur. The second protocol, 14.001R, was suspended because one investigator let his IACUC training expire. The investigator completed the course 23MAR2015.

Committee Recommendations to APSU Administration

Introduction

The work of this committee is guided by *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, NIH) and by *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agriculture Research and Teaching* (Federation of Animal Science Societies). These guides require institutions to adhere to certain standards of animal care and use in the conduct of research involving animals. The basic requirements for a compliant institutional program are outlined in our Semi-Annual Program Review Checklist which is attached to this document. Compliance with the standards set out by these two guides not only allows an institution to be eligible for funding from agencies such as NIH, NSF, and USDA but also assures the wider community that research and teaching with animals at APSU is conducted ethically and conscientiously.

Concerns

This faculty committee has worked diligently to bring APSU's animal program up to full compliance with these standards. The following areas could be improved:

1. A few years ago, the IACUC committee voted to hold meetings on an as-needed basis. This has not worked very well. This year, we planned to resume monthly meetings; however, scheduling difficulties prevented this from happening. We will try once again to hold monthly meeting in the next year. This will ensure that animal facilities are inspected more frequently and that the committee members discuss the animal protocols more thoroughly.
2. There are several on-going issues regarding the Occupational Health and Safety of Personnel. These issues will be alleviated by the addition of the Manager of Environmental Health and Safety to the committee.
3. Of particular concern is our lack of a Program for medical evaluation and preventative medicine for personnel. The IACUC checklist requires the following items:
 - a. Pre-employment evaluation including health history
 - b. Immunizations as appropriate (e.g. rabies, tetanus) & tests
 - c. Zoonosis surveillance as appropriate (e.g. Q-fever, tularemia, Hantavirus, plague)
 - d. Procedures for reporting and treating injuries including bites, etc.

The committee has identified several existing policies in APSU's Policies and Procedures Manual that address some items in this area. The relevant policies are listed below:

[APSU Safety Policy](#)

[APSU TOSHA Policy](#)

[Hazardous Materials Policy](#)

[APSU Hepatitis Policy](#)

Currently, the committee is posting on the IACUC website information on zoonotic diseases and depending upon individual investigators to ensure that all personnel on a given project have been informed of zoonosis and other hazards and are immunized if appropriate.

Recommendations

Further the committee recommends that APSU develop a procedure, perhaps through Health Services, to be able to offer individuals who work with animals pre-work health screening, health monitoring, and vaccinations if appropriate. We are particularly concerned about the health of APSU employees working with animals such as bats. These people require rabies vaccinations and it would be extremely helpful if health services would provide these.