

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE*

May 13, 1993

Minutes of the Meeting

PRESENT: Paul Sackett (chair), N.L. Gault, Daniel Feeney, John Basgen, Essie Kariv-Miller, Albert Yonas, Sara Evans, Anne Petersen, Eric Klinger

ABSENT: Robert Jones, Signe Betsinger, Susan Markham, V.S. Mangipudi, Khahn Nguyen

GUESTS: Dr. William Jacott, Dr. Pat Manning, Michael Flickinger, James Lauer

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Policy and Procedures for Animal Care and Usage

Professor Sackett began by explaining that the Policy and Procedures for Animal Care and Usage was a Regents' Policy undergoing review. The Committee was provided copies of the original policy as well as the modified version. Professor Sackett further explained that it will go through the governance system - at minimum, the Faculty Consultative Committee who will determine whether it should go through the Senate.

Dr. Jacott stated that Policy and Procedures for Animal Care and Usage at the University of Minnesota is a Regents' Policy and was adopted in 1978. He went on to explain that the review of this policy is consistent with the review of all Regents' Policy. The Regents' Office contacted him and asked that the policy be modified, streamlined and take out those items that are process items. He said there are no substantive changes - it has been streamlined.

Dr. Jacott proceeded to walk the group through the document. He then turned to Dr. Pat Manning, Director of Research Animal Resources. One member asked if the procedural material removed from the policy could be found in other documents? Dr. Manning responded that the operative procedures are found in manuals. He said that there is a separate manual for investigators called the Investigator Information Manual where one can find all details of University policy as well as all regulatory agencies that influence the care and use of laboratory animals.

It was agreed that the revised policy should not reference the "old" fourteen page policy, but it should be referenced that there is another manual that all investigators are required to be knowledgeable. Professor Evans suggested that a memorandum accompany the document explaining the revisions and noting that the operative procedures can be found elsewhere and to identify where they can be found.

Vice President Petersen commented that there should be some connection between the Regents' Policy and the Information Manual - the Regents' Policy should include anything that is considered a community wide statement of values and understandings. She went on to say that if there is something that everyone must read and adhere to in the Investigators Manual than it should be cued in the Regent's Policy.

Professor Brenner commented that he and Dr. Jacott met with Bob Kvavik to discuss this policy. He said

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they talked about renaming section III. Procedures for Implementation of Policy to include Compliance. The issues of compliance are interesting, he said. One point, he said, that is not clear is whether the director has the authority to close down an operation if someone is out of compliance. It was pointed out that the document did address this issue but it lacked teeth. Dr. Jacott responded that operationally, this aspect of the policy is being followed.

The Committee expressed its support of the concept of the policy. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that it would be very beneficial for Drs. Jacott and Manning to have available for information - where to find information regarding the items that were removed from the policy.

Policy on Hazardous Biological Materials Controls

Professor Brenner introduced Michael Flickinger, Chair of the Biological Process Technology Institute and James Lauer, Biosafety Office, Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

Professor Brenner began by providing background information relative to the proposed policy. He said that this is not a Regents' Policy at this time. The policy has been operational for the Biosafety Committee for sectors of the University. He added that it would be better served if it were an institutional policy.

Referring to the policy, he commented that it may need to be streamlined. The first issue, he said, is are we going in the right direction? It is important that the policy is not fast tracked -the product should be operational, he went on. As a point of information, he said that the policy will go through the governance system. He turned the discussion over to Mike Flickinger.

Dr. Flickinger distributed a copy of the Regents' Policy on Hazardous Biological Materials Controls Recombinant DNA that was adopted in 1977.

The University of Minnesota is mandated by the National Institute of Health of having a Recombinant DNA Committee, specifically to address issues dealing with recombinant organisms and research involving recombinant organisms. Most institutes use this committee effectively as a general biohazard or biosafety committee - the University of Minnesota has never established this as policy, he said.

There are agents that are being used in research here that are not being manipulated by recombinant methods that are of potential violation. As new facilities are built or as facilities are remodeled for research, a policy is needed to address appropriate capabilities for containing recombinant organisms to meet the state guidelines as well as any federal guidelines, he went on.

Mr. Lauer expanded on the benefits of this policy. There are facilities that are growing HIV, he said, levels that are not seen in humans. Individuals are working with biological active ingredients, which a number of milligrams will cause death. He went on to say that currently there is no reporting mechanism to the Department of Environmental Health and Safety - he said, what they are trying to do is to set up a communication so that they can know what is happening and can ask and advise people as how to deal with such issues. It is crucial for the University to have an in-house policy that addresses these issues and issues of compliance relative to hazardous biological materials.

Dr. Flickinger commented that when dealing with hazardous biological materials, immediate action is sometimes required and there is not time to go back to the Regents' Policy - you have to act immediately to

protect personal safety and safety to the environment. He went on to point out the proposed reporting structure through the Office of the Vice President for Research (current reporting structure is through the President). Vice President Petersen interjected that it is essential to have coordination with the Office of Campus Health and Safety.

Vice President Petersen asked whether the current state guidelines consistent with the federal guidelines. Dr. Flickinger responded that no they were not. For example, he said there is differences in use of the word "containment" between state and federal. He went on to say that as the state adopts additional guidelines, an institutional structure and some authority to come up with a policy is needed. We are in reasonable compliance with the state guidelines, he said, and where the wording is ambiguous deals with the area of greenhouses - for example, "what is a contained greenhouse?"

One member expressed her shock that there has been no policy such as the proposed one - the current Regents' Policy is very general.

Professor Brenner announced that the decision has been made to create a new position - a Compliance Officer. This person would be based in Vice President Petersen's office and will have institutional responsibility for the Biosafety Committee and the Human Subjects Committee.

Professor Brenner asked for the Committee's advice relative to the proposed policy. Should it be moved forward as is? Should it be streamlined? It is anticipated that the policy will go before the Regents sometime in the Fall.

The proposed policy will be distributed to appropriate bodies for input. One member suggested publishing the draft policy in the ORTTA Newsletter. Professor Brenner will bring the policy back to the Research Committee in the Fall for final review. Professor Brenner encouraged members to forward any comments to him.

Other Business

Professor Sackett informed the group that he received a memo from Mike Bognanno, Chair of the Senate Consultative Committee, regarding the Research Committee's input relative to providing names for a search committee for an assistant vice president/associate dean of the Graduate School. This request comes pursuant to the adoption of the search protocols by the Senate, calling for Senate committee involvement in the appointment of search committees and participation in the interviews of finalists. The following individuals were suggested as possible search committee members: Mark Snyder, Psychology; Ronald Gentry, Chemistry; Roberta Humphreys, Physics (Astronomy); Mathew Tirrell, Chemical Engineering; Russ Menard, History, Jack Mandel, Public Health, Barbara Hanawalt, History; Mary Jo Maynes, History; Margaret Hostetter, Pediatrics.

Members discussed briefly the issue of what kind of orientation policy is available for new staff. Professor Brenner indicated that he will speak to Carol Carrier and Anne Petersen regarding this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

- Vickie Courtney