UWP Animal Care & Use Committee
Meeting Minutes
12/10/08

Members present: Marcia DeBuhr (veterinarian), Jill Clark (student), Michael Ira (faculty representative), Nicole Oschmann (student), Gloria Stuckey (staff representative), John Tembei (faculty representative), and Amanda Trewin (faculty representative)

Members absent: Zac Bryner (student), Mary Jo Hennessy (community member), and Kathy Lomax (sponsored programs representative)

Guests: Brooke Schmitz

1. Call to order-1:00
2. Discussion of protocol titled “Efficacy of Preimplantation Vaccination of Bovine Embryos Against Neonatal Diarrhea (Scours Disease)” submitted by Brooke Schmitz and Esther Ofulue. First embryos must be created using bovine oocytes and sperm. Embryos will be treated with a low level of vitamins A, E and selenium (a treatment against Scours in calves). They had then planned to have a veterinarian transfer embryos to a single cow. Blood and fecal samples will be analyzed for the presence of parasites shortly after birth.

The committee had several concerns about this protocol. The main concern was that study of a single calf without any control animals would not allow for any gains in scientific information. If the calf data was promising, it would be impossible to know whether its gains were due to the vaccination or due to other parameters not investigated. The committee was also concerned that the protocol forms were not complete such that it was difficult without talking with Brooke to determine exactly how the experiment was to proceed. Brooke was told that she would need to make changes to the protocol and resubmit in Spring 2009. Brooke was verbally given the ok to proceed with her attempts to create embryos. Brooke was told that embryos could not be transferred to a cow until a protocol had been approved. Further she was encouraged to investigate the feasibility of increasing the number of cows/calves included in the study. Minimally she was told that she would need a control calf.

3. Committee plans to meet several times in early Spring 2009 to discuss/make changes to the “Responsible Animal Care and Use Examination” currently used to certify UWP personnel that work with animals on campus.