

SABC Users' Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2nd March, 2005

11.30am, SABC Large Seminar Room 2.36

Minutes

Present: Mike Jones, Frances Brigg, Dave Hodgson, Scott McNeil, Moira Desport, Carolyn Read, Dave Berryman, Marie Scobie, Andrea Tongue

Apologies: Phil O'Brien

Meeting opened at 11.30am. Mike Jones thanked Marion MacNish for her contributions to the User's Committee and welcomed Carolyn Read who has taken her place.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting of 27 October, 2004 were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

Lab Clean Up

The lab clean up went well. Boxes are still being stored under benches. Researchers are reminded that under OGTR regulations this is not allowed. The primary reason for this is that if something is spilt, the area needs to be decontaminated quickly and effectively. Cardboard can soak up liquid spills and cause problems trying to decontaminate the area.

Lab coats are not to be hung on the back of chairs. Frances also reminded the Committee that the SABC will launder lab coats for researchers.

There is an IBC forum in Canberra, Phil O'Brien has asked if anyone has any comments about how IBC Committees work etc. these can be sent through to him.

Safety Glasses

Comments from the University Safety Committee were that safety glasses should be worn at all times as a default. Frances advised that it is Industry Standard Practice for safety glasses to be worn at all times in laboratories. Murdoch University does not have a policy on this matter, but is likely that all SABC researchers will be required to wear safety glasses at all times. As an Industry Standard it could be assumed that this would become required practice. Mike will follow up with Chris Pepper to find out what the Murdoch policy is and request an official response. It is SABC policy that all researchers should purchase safety glasses to comply with the Australian Industry Standard and keep them in their lab coats, and wear them when undertaking potentially hazardous activity.

3. Equipment Wishlist

An application for major items of equipment will be submitted to the ARC LIEF round this year. Last year a ProTOF was requested, but was unsuccessful. Mike would like to submit an application for this equipment again, if anyone has links at other Universities who might be interested in supporting this application to contact Mike. ARC are expecting about 50% cash support, so around \$200,000 cash support will be needed for this application.

Minor items of equipment currently on this list in priority order are:

- Nanodrop spectro
- General use proteomics equipment

- Digital projector

The SABC has not been told what funds it will receive from the Board of R&D this year so until this is known, no minor items will be purchased until the situation is clearer.

Intermediate value items of equipment (e.g \$20 -100K) will need to be sought via grant applications, or groups can contribute smaller amounts of funds to purchase items collectively.

Any ideas for equipment please feed them through to the core staff or via this Committee.

Dave also asked the Committee to get their groups to look at the new PCR machines coming onto the market. They are able to bring a PCR reaction down from 4 hours to 25 minutes. Feedback any comments to Dave Berryman. Mike said that the Bioplex machine is worth having a look at, it allows multiplexing of assays (protein, DNA) this could have many applications for researchers in the SABC.

3. Laser Printer Program.

Dave Berryman is currently trialing an accounting system for laser printing instead of writing down number of pages printed etc.. The package being evaluated enables all computers to print to a server which will then account for the number of pages and which printer it prints to.

A pop up box will appear requesting a user name and password. Each user will have their own user name and password, this will be required each time a person wishes to print. This system will be implemented over the next couple of months. By mid year, if a person wishes to print to the SABC laser printers this program will need to be installed onto their computer.

AOB

The University is trying to update the chemical database before it changes the program currently being used. If chemicals are added now the usual \$40 per chemical charge is being waived. Any chemicals or hand made chemicals need to be on the system. This has the value of being able to print off labels from the system. Frances urged all users to have their chemicals put on the database as it will make things much easier in the future in terms of reporting on chemicals in the SABC.

The autoclave seal is working too well. Dave advised this problem is being fixed.

Dave would like feedback on how well the finding the SABC Biobar is operating and the products being stocked. Please report back at the next meeting.

Committee representatives would like new researchers/students to be advised that borrowing consumables and equipment from other researchers without asking is not how the SABC operates. Dave advised an induction will take place so that new people are aware of the protocols.

Mike also advised everyone to be more vigilant in terms of security. The beginning of Semester 1 is a time when unscrupulous people take advantage of lots of new faces on campus and might steal money, computers etc.

Meeting closed 12.15pm. Next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 27th April 2005.